

The **KINGBIRD**



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OCTOBER • 1963

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

NEW From the
Cornell Laboratory
of Ornithology

By Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and
Sally F. Hoyt

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PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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CONTENTS

Book Review	Alice E. Ulrich	186
Red-bellied Woodpecker in Western New York	Edward L. Seeber	188
John Graham Bell	John B. Belknap	191
Television Tower Mortality in the Niagara Frontier	Kenneth P. Able	192
Christmas Counts	Edward J. Whelen	196
Club News	Gertrude G. Webster	198
Conservation News	Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.	199
Field Notes:		
Operation Bluebird	W. L. Highhouse	201
Observations of Breeding Sapsuckers	Frances Newman	202
Red-headed Woodpeckers in Oneida Area	Mrs. Willard Ackley	203
Albino Barn Swallow	E. M. Reiley, Jr.	204
Nesting Philadelphia Vireo in the Adirondacks	Robert and Mary Sheffield	204
Highlights of the Summer Season:		
June 1 — August 15	David B. Peakall	205
Regional Reports for the Summer Season, 1963		207

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BOOK REVIEW

Occasionally, there is offered a book, which by good assembly arouses thinking and coordinates ideas beyond the local level and expands them to the universal.

Of such a nature is Jean Dorst's book "The Migration of Birds", a translation from the French, published in America by Houghton Mifflin Co.—The Riverside Press of Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Dorst interestingly traces the theories of migration of birds by citing passages from the writings of Biblical authors, ancient naturalists and philosophers as Homer, Aristotle and Pliny and bridges the gaps over the superstitious and absurd aspects which were accepted during the Middle Ages by the ideas of such writers as Emperor Frederick II, Johann Wonnecke von Caub, Jean Baptise Dutertre and others. These ideas held over even into the start of the nineteenth century. These men with some variation, all expressed much the same ideas, that birds did not all migrate but some hid in the water, the marshes, etc. and thus accounted for the sudden disappearance and reappearance of birds at the fall and spring seasons.

In his treatise (*Ornithology*) on migration, Pierre Belon (1517), mentioned that European storks congregated on the Egyptian Plains in large numbers during September and October and also stated that quail alighted on ships in the Mediterranean Sea. Some of these were captured and when prepared for eating, had crops full of wheat, indicating unbroken flight from the mainland of Europe. He also noted that doves and swallows moved to Africa for the winter away from the cold and lack of food to an area that supplied both, and that birds confined in an aviary did not hide.

In America, Oviedo in his writings (1526-1536) recounts that flights of infinite numbers of many sorts of birds passed over the tip of Cuba and the islands and continue southward across the gulf and also great land flights over Darien, Panama, etc.

J. J. Audubon in the early nineteenth century was among the then more enlightened people who at that time accepted migration and started theories for the explanation of that phenomenon.

With this background, Dr. Dorst devotes the balance of his book to giving the opinions and methods of study used by the present ornithologists, whether they be observation in the field, bird banding or work on the experimental devices used to study the psychology, physiology or orientation of birds. Chapters are devoted to all the known methods now used by present day ornithologists in the aural, optical and radar fields.

In other parts of the book excellent maps show the paths of the European and Asiatic routes which different types of birds follow during their seasonal flights.

Work on the local movement of European birds is well illustrated by charts showing dispersal routes by the analysis of points of release and later recovery.

There are comparisons of America with Europe, and analogies of conditions in S. America, Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

The movements of sea birds also have a place in the book.

All known data that pertains to avian migration, whether geographical or meteorological, physical or mechanical experimentation have been put between the covers of 'The Migration of Birds' by Jean Dorst.

This book in a nontechnical way has a wealth of facts and offers much valuable information on that most fascinating phenomenon, the universal, biannual movement of birds. Both amateur and professional ornithologists will find this a most valuable reference book.

Alice E. Ulrich—Ed.



A G'beak



G'becks

♂

♀

376 Seneca Road
Hornell, New York

Dear Editor:

In the current issue (July) of *The KINGBIRD* we noted two apparent variants recorded which do not correspond to the AOU checklist. On page 164, **BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS**, line 9 and line 13 of the same paragraph you will find the "Rose-breasted Grosbeck" and the "Evening Grosbeck" listed. Actually although I am a leucocephalic Grosbeck (formerly erythrocephalic) we can appreciate the confusing nomenclature and have devised a sure fire method of differentiation in the field — A G'beak flies while a G'beck can only walk.

Sincerely,
W. M. GROESBECK

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THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER IN WESTERN NEW YORK

EDWARD L. SEEBER

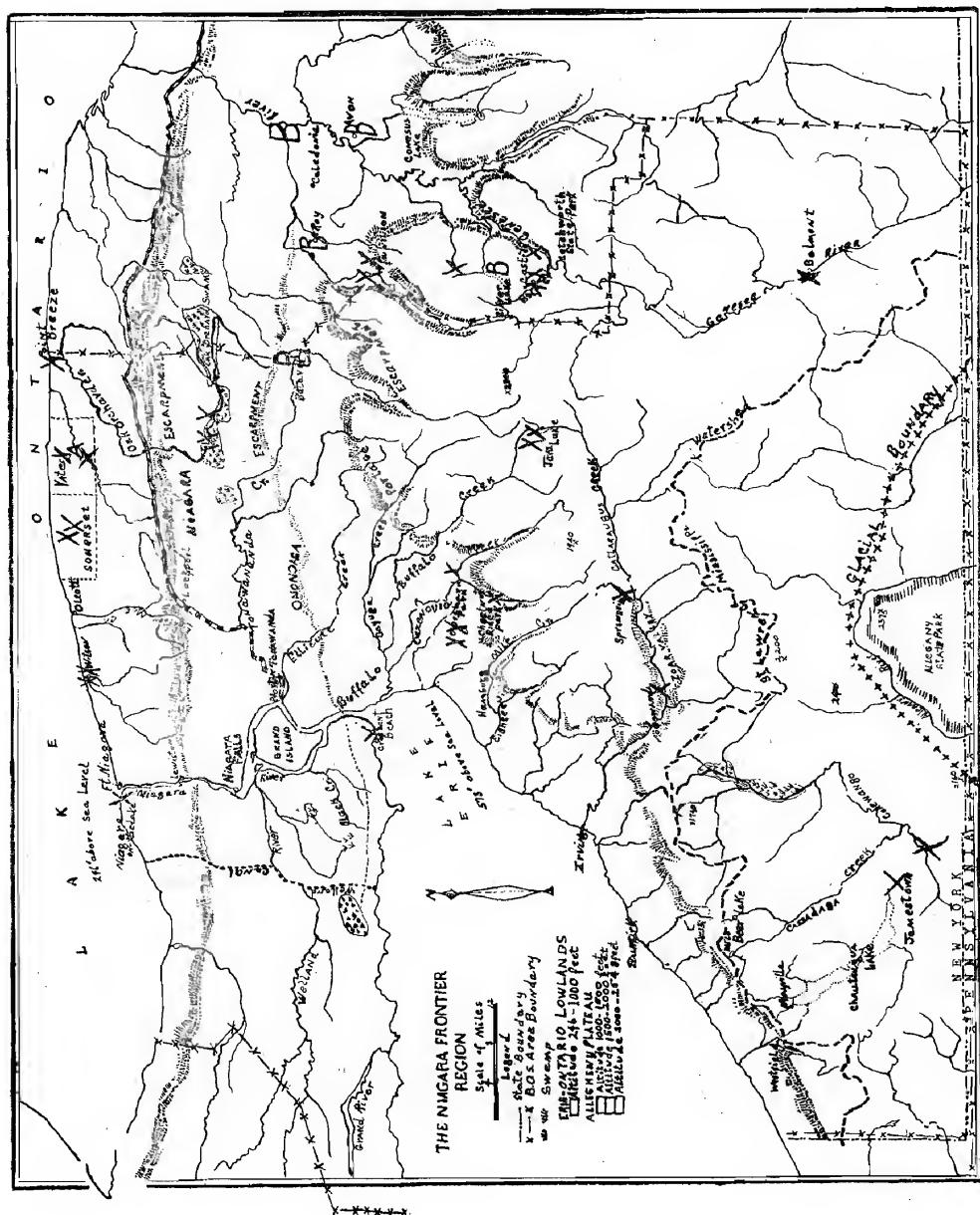
Considering the generally more southern range of the species as a whole, it is somewhat surprising that the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) occurs in New York State at all. According to the AOU checklist, the range is given as Southeastern Minnesota, Southern Wisconsin, Southern Michigan, extreme Southern Ontario, Western New York, and Delaware south to Southern Texas, the Gulf Coast, and Florida Keys to Key West. Local in distribution in the more northern areas. This last phrase certainly applies to the Western New York area. Four subspecies are recognized. One, *C.c. carolinus* is found north only to Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, and Southeastern Pennsylvania. *C.c. perplexus* is restricted to Florida, and *C.c. harpaceus* is found only in Texas. It is the other race, *C.c. zebra* which occurs here.

Except for the note that the species is local in distribution in the more northern areas, one might suspect that our populations are a general spreading out of the species northward from those portions of the range of the species in central and southern Ohio where the species is more common. There is, however, a distinct gap between the Ohio populations and those in New York State which cannot be accounted for by any recent northward range extension such as we have witnessed in such forms as the Cardinal, Titmouse, and Mockingbird in our time. The Red-bellied Woodpeckers in New York form a singularly isolated population of this species, centered more or less in the lower Genesee Valley and discontinuous with the rest of the species.

I cannot believe that the total number of these birds in our state is very large. There are a few, probably less than twenty, places where some of us might go with reasonable expectation of seeing a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Those that I know are all located in a rather narrow band stretching from the Batavia area on the west to around Montezuma on the east. I know that I am not sufficiently acquainted with the eastern edge of this range, so that probably many of you know of other localities farther east where the bird can be found, but I am rather well acquainted with the western part of this range. It is with regard to the western edge that I will generally concern myself in this paper.

To the west of the Genesee river valley area, the only known localities where this species breeds regularly, in so far as I have been able to discover are: certain spots near Batavia, several locations in the vicinity of LeRoy, possibly somewhat south of there in the township of Pavilion, and near the east side of Silver Lake. Each of these locations is marked B on the accompanying map. Notice, on the map, that each of these areas is generally rather close to the Genesee Valley. Even there, however, the species is not widespread and several apparently suitable woodlots seem to be unpopulated by the species. The bird *certainly* does not breed, at least regularly, in Letchworth State Park, at Castile, where Mrs. Mary Thompson reported the bird just twice in many years of active field explorations, nor in the more heavily covered areas nearer Buffalo.

As with other species of birds, there is a tendency for individuals from this general breeding area to occasionally stray to other localities. I have collected those reports of the species which have been reported to the Buffalo Ornithological Society for the following summary, this includes records from roughly the last thirty years. In this time I find records of observation of 25 individual birds away from the known breeding areas. This, as you can see, is not indicative of much movement in the species in that much time. The x's on the accompanying map show the location of these records.



Map showing occurrences of Red-bellied Woodpecker in Western New York

In some respects they occur just where one would expect them to. They are, in general, more frequent in the areas adjacent to the breeding area and become less frequent as the distance increases. Another factor, not indicated here, is that the chance of a wandering bird being detected tends to somewhat increase as one gets closer to Buffalo, at least in the areas shown here. Notice how the records seem to follow the watercourses. This, I am sure gives a clue to the movements for wandering individuals of the species.

It seems highly probable that most of the wanderers are young birds, perhaps supplemented somewhat by aged or deficient individuals unable to hold a territory in the more favorable environments nearer the center of the colony. These birds, once they are driven from or leave their former homes, tend to move in the easier channels and to settle wherever conditions permit their continued survival for a time.

The shore-line of Lake Ontario certainly makes an easy migration marker and the records tend to show it. Actually, there are few suitable habitats for Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the vicinity of Lake Ontario. If they manage to get west across the intervening hills, they tend to follow the streams toward Lake Erie and the Niagara. Notice how the records follow the creeks — Cazenovia, Eighteen-mile, and Cattaraugus. The two Canadian records are, as you can see, from the lake shores — one near either end of the Niagara River.

Notice the records from Frewsberg and Jamestown. These are the farthest away from the breeding sites and therefore indicates the longest documented emigration from the colony that I know of. There is, however, the possibility that these birds were wanderers from the Ohio rather than from our New York populations.

I have known Ornithologists to search for intriguing problems in natural populations dynamics in far corners of the world. It seems to me that here, with a single isolated population of this species living resident in New York State, are the natural conditions for a most ideal study of this nature. (Note: Since this paper was written, the species has been found in the summer, presumably breeding, in Yates Township, Orleans Co. at the location marked A on the accompanying map.)

State University College at Buffalo

Errata:

In spite of constant editing, errors do occur in our publication. We sincerely regret the omission of the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club in the list of clubs in Mrs. Stoner's article "Our Clubs — How Old" in the July issue. The 10th entry in the list should read Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club 5/4/49 instead of Elon Eaton Bird Club 3/26/13.

We also regret the incorrect spelling of Mr. E. J. Whelen's name in the same issue; p.142, l.14 and p.146, l.38.

JOHN GRAHAM BELL

On display at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is a case containing 63 species of hummingbirds, many of them from Central and South America. This collection is a donation from John Warner Brown of Scottsville and Rochester whose great-great grandfather purchased the birds from a French collector more than a hundred years ago. Still extant is a receipt dated January 23, 1857 which reads: "Recd. of Mr. Warner 100 Humming Birds to be mounted and sent to Rochester on payment of \$100.00 JG Bell."

John Graham Bell, the New York City taxidermist who mounted the hummingbirds, played an unusual role in 19th century ornithology. A pioneer in the art of preparing and mounting bird and mammal specimens, Bell was probably the outstanding taxidermist in America during his active life. He was a friend and associate of the leading ornithologists of his day, including Audubon, Baird, Cassin, Giraud and LeConte. His life span covered the period of pioneer endeavor insofar as bird study in America is concerned. In 1812, the year of his birth, Wilson's "American Ornithology" was just seeing the light of day and much of the avifauna of North America was unknown. When Bell died in 1889 the first A.O.U. Checklist had been published and the United States boasted a small but dedicated group of ornithologists. By this time the west had been explored and its bird life fairly well studied and catalogued. That Bell himself was not an entire stranger to western United States will be seen later.

John Graham Bell was born on July 12, 1812 of a Rockland County family, members of which are still living in his old home of Sparkill. For many years he maintained a taxidermy shop on Broadway, New York City which was well known to the leading zoologists of the time. The esteem in which he was held is testified to by the fact that a number of species or subspecies of birds were named in his honor. The late Frank M. Chapman met Bell in the latter period of his life and describes him as "a tall, stately, white-haired, colonial type of man, then in his early seventies." Bell spent the last years of his life in semi-retirement in Rockland County, N. Y.

An eventful episode in the life of John Graham Bell relates to Audubon's famous Missouri River trip of 1843. Bell accompanied Audubon as an aide and collector, securing and preparing many of the new species which resulted from this expedition. A few years later he joined the 1849 gold rush, and, while in California found time to collect two new species of woodpeckers. The skins were sent to John Cassin in Philadelphia, who described them in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science (1850-51). Both are identified as having been collected about twelve miles from Sutter's Mill, El Dorado County, California. Bell died in Sparkill, Rockland County, N. Y., October 22, 1889.

John B. Belknap, 92 Clinton St., Gouverneur

TELEVISION TOWER MORTALITY IN THE NIAGARA FRONTIER DURING FALL, 1962

KENNETH P. ABLE

The ornithological history of the Niagara Frontier region has been strangely devoid of instances of avian mortality at radio and television towers in the past. Although the bird mortality at such towers has been much publicized since about 1957, there has never been a documented kill of this kind in this area. Some systematic checking of television towers has been carried out in the past but one must infer that it was lack of coverage rather than lack of incidents that produced the negative results.

On three dates during the fall of 1962, September 27, 29, and October 7, sufficient numbers of birds were picked up under one tower to make the instances worthy of mention. The WKBW-TV tower, Town of Colden, Erie County, New York measures 1076 feet in height and is situated atop a hill at 1720 feet above sea level, giving the tower a total height above sea level of 2796 feet (2224 feet above the level of nearby Lake Erie). This is by far the tallest tower in the area and accordingly produced 95.6% of the total kill, with scattered birds being found at other nearby towers. The WKBW-TV tower is guyed by three sets of cables consisting of three cables each which are attached at three heights up the tower. Birds were picked up consistently under these wires at considerable distances from the tower itself.

It is reasonable to assume that there are two necessary conditions involved in these tower kills: 1) there must be considerable nocturnal migration, and 2) weather conditions must be such that they would force migrants to fly at a lower than normal altitude and reduce visibility to the extent that the structures and supporting guy wires are rendered invisible to birds that would otherwise see them.

On the three nights during which kills occurred both these conditions were much in evidence. The night of September 26-27 produced the largest movement of the fall. Heavy flights of thrushes and other passerines were reported at several localities in Western New York and adjacent Ontario. The weather was marked by a flow of cool Pacific air directly preceeding and following a low pressure system. Locally this produced a very low ceiling, heavy rain and dense fog, particularly at higher elevations. This weather was held over the Niagara Frontier by an intense storm center over Virginia and thus remained in this area until September 29. The night of October 6-7 again saw a general low pressure system and a flow of cold air from Hudson Bay. In addition the air was moist, producing some local fog but no precipitation.

Weather conditions involved with most kills on record correspond closely with those described here. All kills in the Ontario-Western New York Region of *Audubon Field Notes* during the past three years for which there is weather data have occurred in the wake of a frontal system (usually a cold front) and most were accompanied by poor visibility due to fog and/or precipitation. The same situation was reported by Newman and Andrie: "As on previous occasions, the heaviest pick-ups were made after

the arrival of the cold air . . . ” Newman and Lancaster add, “approximately 98% of the fatalities took place on cloudy or overcast nights, most typically with the ceiling between 2,000 and 3,500 feet and with a cold or stationary front present within 24 hours of the incident.” Further evidence that conditions were sufficient for a kill comes from Long Point, Agincourt and Barre, Ontario, where large numbers of birds were picked up on September 27. The casualties on September 27-28 were again paralleled by Long Point, Ontario and those of October 6-7 by Agincourt, Ontario. Figure 1 shows a comparison of the relative abundance of the five most numerous species in the kills of September 26-27. It can be seen that certain species, e.g. Swainson’s Thrush, Ovenbird, and Red-eyed Vireo ranked high in all of the kills. It may well be that with larger sampling a greater degree of consistency and accuracy will be found.

Town of Colden Erie Co., New York		Long Point Ontario	
1. Swainson’s Thrush	39.9%	Swainson’s Thrush	11.4%
2. Ovenbird	6.6	Gray-ch. Thrush	9.9
3. Red-eyed Vireo	4.8	Ovenbird	9.6
4. Rose-br. Grosbeak	4.8	Red-eyed Vireo	5.8
5. Gray-ch. Thrush	4.2	Magnolia Warbler	5.8
Total species	43		39
Total individuals	682		1713

Agincourt, Ontario		Barre, Ontario	
1. Ovenbird	12.6%	Ovenbird	18.5%
2. Bay-br. Warbler	9.9	Yellowthroat	9.7
3. Red-eyed Vireo	8.5	Bay-br. Warbler	7.9
4. Blackpoll Warbler	8.3	Swainson’s Thrush	7.8
5. Black-thr. Blue Warbler	8.2	Red-eyed Vireo	5.2
Total species	36		26
Total individuals	421		113

Figure 1. Five most abundant species in the four kills on September 26-27, 1962.

Certain observations can be made from the complete list of birds collected which follows. It is immediately obvious that such a random sampling provides a much clearer picture of the abundance and migration period of some species than field work has been able to do. Such species as Black-throated Blue Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Philadelphia Vireo seem to be more numerous than sight records for this area indicate. Also as a result of this kill new late departure dates for Veery and Mourning Warbler were obtained.

It is apparent from data collected here and elsewhere that some species and groups of birds are more susceptible to television towers than others. The much mentioned fact that shorebirds are generally absent from these kills is also documented here. This fact seems logically attributed to

superior eyesight. Also absent from these kills are the weak-, low-flying species such as the Rallids. These birds, decidedly nocturnal in habit, could also survive because of a superior ability to discern objects at night. It was noted that some species and families seem to have a greater survival rate after striking the tower. For example, the number of downed but alive Vireonids was much larger proportionally than that of Parulids. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were frequently picked up in a stunned or otherwise wounded condition but still alive and active while very few *Hylocichlids* and no Scarlet Tanagers were found in this way.

As has been the case in other areas, some birds generally thought of as diurnal migrants were found after a nocturnal kill. Consider in this respect the Yellow-shafted Flicker, Robin and Starling. Whether these birds actually struck the tower during nocturnal migration, were disturbed during their roosting period or were migrating during the early hours of dawn remains to be seen.

The documentation of such migration casualties in future seasons may greatly increase the knowledge of the occurrence of many migrants in this and other areas as well as the general concept of avian migration. Data obtained from such a random cross section would be an adjunct to our knowledge of migration obtained by active field observations.

Species	Totals	Sept. 27	Sept. 29	Oct. 7
Swainson's Thrush	279	82	173	24
Ovenbird	45	22	18	5
Unident. Thrushes*	34	34	—	—
Red-eyed Vireo	33	11	16	6
Rose-br. Grosbeak	33	14	19	—
Gray-ch. Thrush	29	—	29	—
Blackpoll Warbler	24	7	16	1
Bay-br. Warbler	23	9	13	1
Bl.-th. Blue Warbler	22	9	10	3
Scarlet Tanager	22	5	17	—
Catbird	19	4	11	4
Yellowthroat	17	6	10	1
Wood Thrush	15	8	6	1
Magnolia Warbler	12	3	9	—
Philadelphia Vireo	9	2	6	1
Tennessee Warbler	8	6	2	—
Chestnut-s. Warbler	8	5	3	—
Bl.-th. Green Warbler	7	4	2	1
Bl. & Wh. Warbler	5	2	3	—
Cape May Warbler	5	2	1	2
Amer. Redstart	3	2	1	—
Veery	2	—	2	—
Solitary Vireo	2	2	—	—
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	1	—
Northern Waterthrush	2	1	1	—
Mourning Warbler	2	1	—	1

Hooded Warbler	2	—	1	1
White-th. Sparrow	2	—	2	—
Song Sparrow	2	—	1	1
Yel.-b. Cuckoo	1	—	—	1
Yel.-sh. Flicker	1	—	1	—
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker	1	—	1	—
Brown Creeper	1	—	1	—
Robin	1	—	—	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	—	1	—
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1	—	1	—
Starling	1	—	—	1
Nashville Warbler	1	—	1	—
Parula Warbler	1	—	1	—
Connecticut Warbler	1	—	—	1
Wilson's Warbler	1	—	1	—
Unident. Warbler**	1	1	—	—
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1	—	—
Total 43 species	682	244	381	57

Figure 2. Species and individuals involved in kills at WKBW-TV tower, Town of Colden, Erie County, N. Y., September 27, 29 and October 7, 1962. (*—The unidentified thrushes were either immature Swainson's Thrushes or Gray-cheeked Thrushes. **—Bird dead for longer than 24 hours.)

Kenneth P. Able, 4106 Winchester Rd., Louisville 7, Ky. 40207

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Recommended by Roger Tory Peterson

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

EDWARD J. WHELEN

As reported in the July issue, New York State lost one of its most active birders, Edward J. Whelen. As the season for Christmas bird counts approaches, it seems appropriate to reprint the following article which first appeared in the Brooklyn Bird Club's Newsletter of December 1959, written by the late Edward J. Whelen, in his own style to inform the Brooklyn Bird Club members and friends of the history and importance of Christmas bird counts and to arouse more enthusiasm among members to take part in the local Christmas count.

The purpose of printing this article is twofold; first, to show Mr. Whelen's persuasive personality and indomitable spirit which spurred the BBC to its great activity, and to arouse more federation members to take part in their local club Christmas count.

The annual Christmas Bird Count taken by National Audubon Society affiliates throughout the country . . . this year's dates are December 19 through January 1, 1963 . . . is a real blood-chilling adventure and you will not want to miss an opportunity to be a part of it. (that blood-chilling bit is sheer inspiration — no?) (Hey! I'm supposed to be promoting this census ideal!). Well, Look, It's cold out, at that time of year, and we don't want to suggest that it's a picnic. Wait! Let's start over.

We want to give you a run-down on the Sport of Kings. Away back at the turn of the Century, "Bird Lovers" were waxing wroth at the way the hunters were playing a game of going afield at Christmas time, of seeing how many birds (any kind of birds) they could "bag" in a day of shooting. In those beknighted days, before Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot began to preach Conservation, all birds were fair game. "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie" was not only a nursery rhyme but a sad reality — with thrushes, shorebirds, and chickadees in the pot-pie just for seasoning, like olives in a martini. The Bird lovers tried to shame these butchers of songbirds and they instituted a game of their own — a Christmas Bird Count.

They went into the field and built up a list of "birds seen" and *not* shot. Most of the lists submitted to the newspapers, were "unbelievable" — according to the Rod and Gun Editors and the bird lovers were called such gentle terms as cross-eyed liars, idiots, etc. "Why everybody knows that the wrens ride south on the backs of geese, and Tree Swallows all hibernate in mud-banks — except for those that winter on the moon!" — sample of comment from Police Gazette. "No wonder they see so many birds! They call sparrows by a dozen names, towhees, juncos, white-throats, song, seaside — the way they split hairs over the names of birds, it's no wonder they see 50 species! They're all snowbirds, everyone knows that."

But, along about 1910 when our private enterprise system got into high gear and a shotgun shell cost too much to waste on a flock of sparrows — the hunters stopped shooting so many and at the same time a lot of folks were becoming interested in just looking at birds — they were just "bird watchers."

That was during the "Age of Sneers" when all progressive people were called "suffragettes, teetotalers, conservationists, Audubonists or anarchists (the labor unionists)". So birdwatchers too, received the barbed tongue and acid pen treatment. Lots of old time "butchers" are still around and we still note a hangover of the "sneerers". Bird watchers! Phooey!

However, bird clubs and Audubon Society units were getting out at Christmas time and bringing in some amazing records of wintering birds, and so discovering some facts about bird migration and the wintering range of species. Colleges were turning out specialists in birds and "Game Management." Experts were considered to know more about Game Birds than the best shotgun man in the blind. (This last was hard to get down and some gunners would as soon shoot a bird expert as a protected duck.)

Fortunately or unfortunately, — since in America we need a disaster to arouse the General Public — we found that some species of birds were already extinct and others were on the verge of being wiped out. Carolina Parakeets, Passenger Pigeons, Great Auks, and the Heath Hens were all gone and it was noted that egrets, terns and even the lowly "sea gull" was about to disappear. With the Audubon Society leading the fight, and with adequate protection given to nesting areas, these birds were saved.

Conservation, became a magical word, and as all politicians are against sin, when the good old General Public demanded some protection for birds, and an answer to the question "Why are birds becoming extinct?" the laws were passed — a couple of laws to save the birds and then the politicians went back to log-rolling. The Public? As usual it had done its duty and saved the birds and then had gone back to sleep. The Birders, Conservationists and even the old time bird Lovers were grateful for the victory. The Christmas Bird Count became an institution — a means for checking on the occurrence of birds in winter.

The Bird Enthusiast who will rise at dawn, in winter, and spend the day in the field, until darkness blinds his binoculars is a rare bird indeed. Every bird club has a couple of them and there are a lot of "lone wolves" who want no part of a bird club as such but who are friendly souls who will help a beginner to see his first rarity — and assist a bird club in taking the Christmas Count. Without the help of these strong silent men, the average bird club would miss a lot of good birds. We will never be able to evaluate fully the contributions of such men (and women) as we speak of here. Many club trips go to places to see birds that were found and reported by them. The full coverage of an area is their life work and we reap the harvest of the good finds they have made.

So, now let's get censusing! The purpose as we see it, is to obtain data on the winter range of birds, and to discover the "casualties of the migration" type of wintering-over birds. Some birds become injured or sick and they drop out of flights and then they are faced with the problem of remaining alive until the return of spring. On our Christmas count we come up with many such birds — birds that are not supposed to be here, but down in Florida or Mexico. Usually these birds are unable to survive for long in the rigorous conditions of our winter, but they seek shelter in

thickets, ravines, marshy or swampy areas and try to survive. Sometimes they are lucky and find a feeding station, and they stay near by and so are regularly reported, but most often they hide in brush piles remote from people and they are normally overlooked. We try to find them and so tally another species. Such birds as thrushes, thrashers, catbirds, phoebes, orioles, Tree Swallows, warblers and towhees are in the group we refer to here.

Then there are the Northern birds which migrate "south" to winter locally. White-throats, juncos, other sparrows, chickadees, nuthatches, siskins, crossbills, goldfinches, are the hardy and half hardy birds that we regularly list each winter. Some "unusual" birds — owls and hawks, eiders, bay and sea ducks, plus the sanctuary waterfowl, make up a large segment of our list.

Some birds are "permanent residents", they occur on a year-round basis; Song Sparrows, Cardinals, Sparrow Hawks, Short-eared Owls, Horned Larks and Gulls. We know where to look for these birds and find them regularly.

Now, who does it? Who are these avid souls, who wade through half frozen marshes, beat through the poison ivy, who (Eee-gad) brave some ice-covered jetty to seek the eiders, the Oldsquaws, the Harlequin Duck or the feeding Gannet ??? Who?

YOU — yes, you, are needed. We want everyone to come out on count day. Rain or shine, or — B-I-R-SNOW.

So — come to your club meeting and accept an assignment.

Maybe you will receive a medal — HERO OF THE — — Club."

Ed. note. Permission to reprint this article was given by Mrs. Edward J. Whelen, 971 East 34th St., Brooklyn 10

CLUB NEWS

The Buffalo Audubon Society cordially invites you to the

Harold D. Mitchell, Testimonial Dinner

In the Museum of Science, Humboldt Pkwy., Buffalo, N. Y.

November 16, 1963

Roger Tory Peterson — Guest Speaker

Reservations may be made by mailing your check or money order for ten dollars (\$10.00) to Miss Margaret Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville 21, New York. Make your reservations early — facilities are limited to 400.

In approving his testimonial dinner, Mr. Mitchell has pledged the proceeds to the Beaver Meadows Wildlife Refuge Fund. Souvenir programs will list names of patrons or friends of Audubon who contribute \$5.00 or more toward the Fund. This contribution may be sent along with your reservation to Miss Wendling.

Gertrude G. Webster, Chairman of Publicity Committee.

Produced by
Dr. W. W. H. Gunn
for the

Vol 1. Songs of Spring
Vol 2. A Day in Algonquin Park
Vol 3. Birds of the Forest
Vol 4. Warblers
Vol 5. A Day at Flores Morades
Vol 6. Finches

Write for brochure:

**FEDERATION OF
ONTARIO NATURALISTS**
EDWARDS GARDENS
Don Mills, Ontario

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

This summer was a time of conservation conferences (or as most were labeled — symposiums) in New York State. It began with the Fire Island Symposium in June (reported in the last *Kingbird*), which idea was picked up by the group fighting for the Town of Hempstead's salt wetlands on Long Island's south shore and they held a symposium last September in Freeport. In Albany a conference on use of the forest lands and a symposium on insecticides were held.

These gatherings seemed to be in the spirit of summing up the persuasive arguments supporting the goals of the interested parties organizing these meetings — goals acceptable and, in fact, greatly desired by the Federation in regard to creating a Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island and preserving Hempstead's 10,000 acres of wetlands, but questionable with regard to multiple use of the forested lands and continued use of pesticides.

Certainly organizers of conferences are not under any obligation to arrange panels and programs in any other way than to favor their viewpoint — and this was done in the Hempstead and Fire Island symposiums. Dr. Richard Pough, for instance, was a speaker at both and this prominent conservationist and author of bird guides fervently stressed the need for preserving these areas.

The Hempstead meeting was particularly interesting for the persons who appeared on the panel to cite the importance of the salt marshes and shallow bay waters comprising the wetlands. James O'Brien, director of the State Conservation Department's motor boat division said that the beauties of the wetlands were important for the pleasure of the many boatmen. He said that any necessary channeling should be done with consultation from marine scientists. Although Mr. O'Brien's remarks were general it was considered significant that he had said them.

The national secretary of Ducks Unlimited said that all the work that has been done in saving the waterfowl breeding grounds would go to naught if we don't have wintering grounds or stopping off grounds. Henry Coe further declared that the ever-vanishing marshlands of Long Island are contributing to the duck decline — which has been perilous in recent years. He cited the Brant which would again be brought close to the diminishing point if the wetlands are tampered with. Milton Anderson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service said that last January 30 per cent of the Atlantic Brant were found in Long Island waters, principally on the south shore. Seven per cent of the diving ducks on the Atlantic Flyway and three per cent of the puddle ducks were also found in these waters, he added.

That multiple use of the forest lands in the state would be favored at the New York State Forest Land Use Conference in September could have been predicted by looking at some of the five cooperating agencies — the New York Forest Industries Committee for one and the New York State college of Forestry at Syracuse for another.

Joseph Tonelli, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers made a strong statement favoring multiple use of state forest lands. He noted that the payrolls, jobs and the very livelihoods of more than 125,000 workers in New York State depend on a vigorous forest industry. Multiple use was defined by Dr. Richard V. Lea, manager of the New York Woodlands Department of the Diamond National Corporation as meaning a combination of timber harvesting, watershed protection, wildlife preservation and public recreation. According to the news release issued by the conference of organization, S. James Matthews, vice president of the New York State Conservation Council, "set the tone on remarks about the state's 2½ million acre Forest Preserve" when he charged that "the cumbersome, outmoded restrictions placed on these forever wild lands by the State Constitution have long outlived their usefulness." The Federation is officially opposed to any change in the Constitution's 'forever wild' protection.

What was somewhat surprising was the overwhelming plus given the use of pesticides at symposium conducted on this problem by the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources in September at Albany. The chairman, Assemblyman R. Watson Pomeroy, said it was held to determine if additional legislation was needed.

However, the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham, urged caution in drafting any regulatory legislation declaring that the benefits of pesticides "from the evidence we have, greatly overbalances the

risks." He conceded that "we must also remain alert to all possible danger from their use," but he asserted that because of their benefits use of chemical pesticides is "a chance we must take."

Dr. Richard O'Brien, professor of entomology at Cornell, urged that chemical pesticides be expanded rather than frowned upon. E. H. Smith, also a professor of entomology at Cornell, called pesticides a boon to mankind. However, he did warn that although "There is no evidence that serious harm has yet been caused . . . neither is there evidence that continuation of our present practices will not cause harm."

At the end of the story reporting on this conference, the New York Times added another short news item with a small headline reading "Carrots Seized Here." It told of the seizure by Federal marshals of 30,000 pounds of carrots containing a residue of the insecticide, Endrin.

At this writing hearings on the proposed Fire Island National Seashore seemed to be very much a possibility. A few weeks earlier Federation member Robert Snyder, vice president of the Baldwin Bird Club, was among 11 citizens (members of the Citizens' Committee for a Fire Island National Seashore) who made a trip to Washington, D. C., where they presented their case to various senators and congressmen.

333 Bedell St., Freeport, L. I.

FIELD NOTES

"Operation Bluebird," Warren County, Penna. Seventh Report — 1963

The winter of 1962-63 will go down in climatological history as the coldest of this century as far as Warren County, Penna. is concerned.

Although March and April were months of normal Spring weather with the Bluebirds returning in good numbers, the weather for the month of May reverted to the winter pattern with temperatures considerably below normal with a great deal of chilling wind.

As a result of these two periods of extreme cold weather, the numbers of young Bluebirds fledged dropped from an all time high of 432 in 1962 to 316 in 1963 — a decline of 26% — the second best year on record, however.

The same number of nesting boxes were under observation during 1962 and 1963 — approximately 100.

During 1963 — 70 boxes were initially occupied by Bluebirds with 318 eggs laid. 215 of these eggs hatched with 188 young fledged. 27 dead young were removed from the boxes.

During the initial occupancy in 1962, 62 pairs of Bluebirds laid 297 eggs of which 265 hatched and 265 fledged.

By comparison, the initial hatching success was 89% in 1962 and 68% in 1963. The fledging success was 100% in 1962 and 86% in 1963.

During 1963 — 43 boxes were used for second nestings by Bluebirds with 176 eggs laid of which 144 hatched and 128 young Bluebirds were fledged. 16 young Bluebirds died in the boxes. Thus during the more normal weather of June and July, the hatching success was 82% and fledging success 88%. This compares with 80% and 100% in 1962.

During the first nesting period of 1962, 62 pairs of Bluebirds averaged 4.8 eggs per nest compared to 4.55 eggs per nest in 1963 by 70 pairs of Bluebirds.

During both 1962 and 1963, the average number of eggs for the second nesting period was 4.1 per nest.

Since the Bluebirds' nests in 1963 were dusted and sprayed with a mild flea powder to control the larvae of the birdnest screw worm fly, the same as in 1962, we can only conclude that the adverse weather had a definite detrimental effect on the production of young Bluebirds.

The Bluebirds and I are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neel for faithfully checking the Cherry Grove area which contains 26 of my nesting boxes. 71 Bluebirds were fledged in this section all of which were banded by the Neels.

A vote of thanks to Ted Grisez also for checking boxes and banding Bluebirds in other parts of my routes.

Wayne Yonkie has 76 nesting boxes on location. Preliminary figures indicate that at least 19 pairs of Bluebirds occupied his boxes with over 30 fledged.

Should the weather man cooperate in 1964 and should we be able to manage 170-180 boxes which will be available for nesting Bluebirds, we could conceivably fledge 500 Bluebirds.

W. L. Highhouse, 8 Fourth Avenue, Warren, Penna.

"In Jan. 1963 we published the results of the sixth Bluebird report by William Highhouse, and it seems worthwhile at this time to summarize the 7th season. While this area is not in the state, it is close to the border, and a similar study (which we hope someone will undertake) in N.Y. would probably produce similar results."

Editor's note.

Observations of Breeding Sapsuckers: Although the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) occurs regularly around Cortland, New York, in migration, and is to be found as a summer resident at some of the higher elevations, it is generally thought to be a shy species that avoids human observers. I was therefore surprised when a pair of sapsuckers moved their family of three into our willows, where they set up a very convenient cafeteria for the fledglings.

These observations of the Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were made in 1962 at our home, in the hilly country just north east of Cortland (42° 39' N & 76° 07' 31" W) and where the surrounding elevations range from 1120 to 1920 feet. Our back yard (1160') is at the opening of a small gorge, cool and damp even on the hottest days in the summer. The sides and top of the ravine are covered with trees both coniferous and deciduous. The banks of the stream flowing from the gorge and bordering our yard are thickly lined with willows, oaks, maples and locust trees.

On July 31 a mewing cry came from the willows. This was repeated over and over, and since it was a new sound to me, I found myself leaving my kitchen chores to investigate. As I cautiously approached, a female sapsucker flew away. Then I saw she had left behind three young, each clinging to a good sized trunk. These young birds in their muddy-colored plumage, were completely indifferent to everything except the food before them. They just sat sipping the sap oozing from holes freshly opened in the bark and occasionally picking off an ant which was also attracted to the sap.

Later I learned that each morning the female came to the trees and opened new holes in the bark, and it was she who made the mewing call to bring the young to this place. After about ten days the young birds were a little more cautious and would move to the back of the trunk when anyone approached. These birds were so quiet all day long that our three cats continued a long standing habit of taking naps on hot afternoons on the cool earth under the trees with only an occasional curious glance at the dull birds perched within six feet above their heads.

During the weeks that followed, the young sapsuckers developed the colorful red markings on head and chin and yellow on the belly. They continued to come to the trees each day and only showed spirit when a hummingbird wanted to share their food. They would dart at the hummingbird and drive him away. However, the hummers would just light on a branch, and wait their chance to slip in unobserved and then dart away with a beakful of sap.

The sapsuckers again gave me a surprise when I observed four of them one evening in the dead branches of a tall willow flying out and catching insects in the air in the manner of flycatchers.

It was on the last day of September that I last saw one of the young males on the feeding place. His feathers were bright and colorful. He remained motionless as I approached, within a few feet, making what I hoped were friendly sounds to a sapsucker. Since then the willows have been deserted.

Frances Newman, R.F.D. #1, Cortland

Notes on Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Oneida Area: It now appears almost certain that Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in this vicinity are actually increasing, as has been suggested by F. Scheider, (Kingbird VI, #3, p97) and documented for Northern New York by Belknap (Kingbird VII, #3, p87).

My notes in this area showed no sightings of this species for many years prior to 1952, which is just a year later than Mr. Belknap dates their reappearance in Northern New York state. Following that year, I have recorded them regularly, with numbers and locations slowly increasing. They have disappeared from only one or two of the known earlier locations, tending to return every year to the same general area, and often to the same tree.

Last year a report was made after correlating the records of several interested people in Oneida and Sherrill, with the resulting data showing 9 **probable** nesting locations—(Kingbird XII, #3, p154).

This year a special effort was made to find actual nest holes, and, if possible, to determine success of the nesting. The results show a total of ten occupied nest holes, with an additional five locations where sight records were made but no nest located. These sight records were made during July when the birds would not be expected to be moving about and so should not duplicate any of the nesting count. Adult birds were seen feeding young at eight of the ten nesting sites. At least twenty-eight adult birds were counted plus eleven in immature plumage.

All of these records were obtained within a ten mile radius of the city of Oneida, in Oneida and Madison Counties. The nesting sites were either on little-used roads, or else well back from a main road. The preferred habitat seems to be open groves or scattered trees in meadowland, with some dead trees or dead stubs in live trees. They have been found both in upland areas south of Oneida and in the flat country of the Oneida Lake plain.

Only one of the nests under observation was known to be abandoned, possibly because of competition from Starlings. A second nesting was noted in another case, with three young out of the nest about July 21st, and the parent birds showing courtship activity a few days before that. On Aug. 4th, one adult was in attendance on the three young, who were also feeding independently, and the other adult was in the original nest hole. By Aug. 20th the second brood was being fed at the nest and the three immatures of the first nesting were still in the neighborhood.

In watching the various birds feeding young, we noticed that one bird of a pair (the female ?) had selected a particular stub to which it flew each time it brought food, and used it as a shelf or chopping board on which to mash the morsel, preparatory to feeding it to the young ones. This behavior was observed in two different pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Mrs. Willard Ackley, Mansion House, Kenwood Station, Oneida

ALBINO BARN SWALLOWS

Mr. Robert Selkirk owns and operates a poultry store in the community of Selkirk, New York which is south of Albany. On July third, 1963 the young Barn Swallows in a nest which the adults had built under the eaves on the porch of the poultry store were almost at fledging age and appeared for the first time at the edge of their nest where Mr. Selkirk could see them. To his surprise three of the young were complete albinos with white plumage and pink eyes while the two other nestings appeared normally plumaged as did the adults.

Mr. Selkirk called me at the New York State Museum and, as I was unable to get to Selkirk, promised to keep me informed of events at the nest. A photographer from the Knickerbocker News of Albany tried to take pictures for his paper on the fifth but succeeded in filming only one of the albinos. Three of the young were able to leave the nest immediately and the remaining fledglings left after the picture was taken; one of the albino fledglings was out of sight in the nest when the shutter was snapped. The picture appeared on page 10A of the Albany Knickerbocker News, Saturday, July 13, 1963. The birds all flew to places where Mr. Arnold LeFevre, the photographer, was unable to take further pictures.

At my request Mr. Selkirk watched the albinos which remained in the area. Every time he saw them on wing it seemed to him that many of the normally plumaged Barn Swallows were diving at the albinos almost to the point of contact. This reaction was continued when the albinos perched anywhere in the open. It has been observed that adult swallows will often perform this maneuver with their young particularly when the young are perching. It has been surmised that this is an action designed to make the young fly better and more often. The adults also will feed the young on wing. Since the "buzzing" technique by parent birds is not as continuous an action as it was in the case with the albinos, it may be that all the Barn Swallows in the area were reacting to the albinos as though they were alien species joining the wrong flock. "Buzzing" in this sense is derived from the jargon of Air Force pilots and so used means flying extremely close to objects on the ground or in the air, sometimes to the danger point. As swallows often fly in mixed swallow-species groups, without buzzing reactions noticeable to any great degree, the reaction to the albinos was closer to that which would occur if a Phoebe tried to join the swallows.

Very few other cases of albinism among swallows has been noted in literature and nowhere can I find reference to more than a single individual at one time. If the buzzing action by other members of the same species is definitely unfriendly it would mean the full albinos at least would find it difficult, if not impossible, to breed as they would be rejected by their own species. They might breed successfully with other albinos of their own species but the chances of this occurring naturally are fantastic. Indeed the reactions of other Barn Swallows to the albino siblings would probably greatly lessen their chances of surviving their first winter and migration seasons.

E. M. Reilly, Jr., Old Chatham

Nesting of the Philadelphia Vireo in the Adirondacks: There are very few documented records of the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) as a breeding bird in New York State, although reports of sighting of the species in summer may be found in the literature. Hence the following brief notes are of some importance.

On June 27, 1962 we hiked into Marcy Dam, two miles south of Heart Lake, near Lake Placid. This is a small lake with some open areas around it and some second growth. Near Leanto #5 our attention was immediately attracted to a different vireo song, and on finding the bird we identified it as a Philadelphia Vireo, light line over the eye, no wing bars, very yellowish underneath, song higher, slower and sweeter than the Red-eye. We saw the bird frequently during the next three days, and it sang incessantly. It spent most of its time in a white birch in front of the leanto.

On June 18, 1963 we returned to the Marcy Dam area and on the 19th found a Philadelphia Vireo building a nest in one of a clump of maples across the creek and perhaps 200 feet from our leanto. The nest was about 18 feet from the ground and the framework was just started. It looked like white birch bark. We were unable to determine if both birds shared in the nest-building, but we did see both birds at the same time in a clump of willows gathering willow down. The male was not singing as incessantly as in the previous year, and also he did not appear to be as yellow underneath as the 1962 bird, but of course we do not know whether it was the same individual. On June 20 we could see that much progress had been made on the nest.

The nest was well hidden, and would not have been detected had it not been for the rapid, direct flights to the spot. The birds seem nervous, and the male responded to 'spishing', by descending to within a few feet of us.

It is hoped that future visits to the area will result in additional observations.

Robert and Mary Sheffield, RD#5, Atchison Road, Binghamton

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON JUNE 1 - AUGUST 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The breeding season seems to be the most difficult to summarize, perhaps because the data is usually less precise. There is little in the reports to alter the depressing picture of the breeding of the birds of prey. A recent conference in England indicates that the problem in Europe is just as acute and again it is considered that pesticides are the primary factor. The conference is reported in Bird Notes 30:205. If there is a concentration of pesticide residues in food chains then another group of birds that might be expected to be effected are the marsh birds. The report from region eight indicates a reduction of this sort but, apart from a scarcity of Pied-billed Grebes in region two and rails around New York City, the effect does not seem to be wide spread. A most valuable index would be a state wide index of Great Blue Heron colonies and it is hoped by this writer that someone will undertake this survey.

One species in which great interest has been shown in recent years is the Bluebird. Eaton, some fifty years ago, considered it a 'common summer resident in all parts of the state'. In recent years it could only be called a rare summer resident. The picture this summer is mixed, poor breeding success was noted at Cortland, some other areas showed a slight increase which fits with the increase on the wintering ground last winter (James, Audubon Field Notes 17:302).

However, the success of the Bluebird in areas where houses are provided for it (cf Kingbird 13:24) suggests that the shortage of suitable nesting holes may be a limiting factor. The changing agricultural scene with less wooden fences, less old trees and regular spraying of orchards have all contributed to the long-term decline of this attractive species. Superimposed on this the bad weather on the wintering grounds from 1957-58 to 1961-62 (James, A.F.N. 16:308) brought the species to a very low level.

There were five reports of singing male Clay-colored Sparrows this summer. Two of these were in the Adirondacks, and singles near Ithaca, Pulaski

and Rochester. The history of this species in the state is interesting. There appears to be no record before 1933 and if it had occurred as regularly fifty years ago as it does today we may be sure that it would have fallen to the guns of the early collectors. Cruickshank (1942) gives only two records for Long Island but by the late 1940's it was also regular as a fall migrant there. Spring records were, however, scarce. The occurrence of singing males in the spring does not seem to have started until the late fifties. There has been some eastward movement of the breeding range of this species but there is still a large gap from the eastern edge of its normal range to New York State. The future of this species should be of great interest.

The northward movement of southern species has been another subject of interest for sometime. The position for this year can be summarized by quoting Rosche 'the Carolina Wren appears to be the only one of the southern immigrant species that is not increasing or holding its own'. The Carolina Wren appears to be very scarce statewide except on Long Island. Another scarce species is the Short-billed Marsh Wren. The Orchard Oriole nested for the first time this century in the Oneida Lake Basin and was reported more frequently than usual in several other areas. After their late winter invasion more Purple Finches than usual stayed to nest in many areas. The Evening Grosbeak was widely reported in the Adirondacks but did not occur as a breeding species outside the mountainous area as it did last year.

A Red-billed Tropicbird found dead on Long Island is a new species for the state. It is probably the first record for eastern North America, for although the A.O.U. checklist states 'casually north to Newfoundland Banks' this is apparently based on a single record which is considered unsatisfactory by some authorities (Palmer, *Handbook of North American Birds*). About the same time a Sooty Tern was picked up dead at Rochester. Presumably both records were due to a tropical storm that died out well to the south of our area on June 3rd.

The southward shorebird migration was well underway by the end of the period and its early promise was good. The Ruff was recorded from three regions and another Palearctic bird, the Curlew Sandpiper, was reported on Long Island.

A last note, as a field report on hybrids it is difficult to beat the one from Old Chatham of a Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Lawrence's and four Brewster's Warblers perched together on a fence rail.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse 10
Corrigendum.

The first line of the second paragraph of the last Highlights should read 'in a way that was not reflected'.



REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

June was generally pleasant and dry with alternating cool and warm spells. It was the third driest June since 1871 at Buffalo, thus making it the tenth consecutive month with below normal precipitation. July averaged out about normal as to temperature but actually there were wide swings from the record breaking heat of the first day to record breaking cold on July 6th and 9th. July will long be remembered as the month when the rains finally came. Three storms each produced an inch or more of rain at Buffalo. The heavy rains continued through mid-August with near-record deluges of 3.88 inches on August 7 and 2.23 inches on August 13. These storms bypassed most southern tier areas, however, the water table continuing to be considerably low there, compared with the saturated ground conditions farther north in the region.

Fortunately, the heavy rains came after most birds had completed their nesting activities. There were no reports of casualties resulting from the storms. Shorebird habitat away from the Great Lakes was more scarce than in the average year. As a result there are fewer shorebird reports from the region this year.

In general, the nesting season was termed a successful one by most observers. The unusually mild and pleasant month of June appeared to aid good brood success throughout the region.

The Carolina Wren appears to be the only one of the southern immigrant species that is not increasing or holding its own in the region. The recent series of severe winters appears to have had an adverse affect on this bird, there being only two reports of this species since August 1962.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: Alleg. — Allegany; ASP — Allegany State Park; Catt. — Cattaraugus; Chaut. — Chautauqua; Co. — County; Gen. — Genesee; Lk. — Lake; Nia. — Niagara; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Wyo. — Wyoming.

Contributors: KPA — Kenneth P. Able; RFA — Robert F. Andrie; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; SB — Sylvia Brockner; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; GB — George Buckland; LLB — Lou L. Burton; AM — Alice McKale; WM — Williard McKale; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; LN — Lincoln Nutting; FMR — Frances M. Rew; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; AS — Arthur Schaffner; TS — Teresa Schober; GAS — George and Alma Schweikhard; RS — Roger Sundell; EAU — Edward and Alice Ulrich; GGW — Gertrude G. Webster.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: about 52 nests were counted this year in the heronry near Towns Corners, Town of Arkwright, Chaut. Co. — an increase of four over 1962 (TS). Common Egret: one, June 9, OOGMA (GB); four, Jul 23, Alabama, Gen. Co. (AS et al); one, Jul 29, Hamburg (TLB) — only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: one, July 4, Amherst, Erie Co. (WM) — only report. Canada Goose: seven adults plus three young, Jul 23, OOGMA (AS et al). Green-winged Teal: five, July 23, OOGMA (AS et al); four, Aug 3, N. Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR et al) — early inland migrants. White-winged Scoter: two, Jun 3, Lk. Erie at Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — late migrants. Hooded Merganser: one brood seven young, Jun 22, Riverside Marsh, Town of Kiantone, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); one, Jun 22, near Attica Center, Wyo. Co. (RCR). Common Merganser: one, Aug. 7, Lk. Erie at Athol Springs (TLB). Red-breasted Merganser: one, Aug 9, Lk. Erie at Bay View, Erie Co. (TLB) — few summer reports of this or the preceding species on this side of Lk. Erie.

Hawks — Owls: Sharp-shinned Hawk: one nesting record, two young plus adult, Jul 10-Aug 14, Town of Orangeville, Wyo. Co. (RFA et al). Turkey: continues to spread northward in the region with apparent good nesting success this year; brood of six young, Jun 1, ASP (GAS et al); brood

of four-five young, Jun 29, Hoisington Rd., Town of Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); four, Jul 20, North Collins, Erie Co. (TLB). Whimbrel: one, Aug 5, Derby (TLB) — very few records for this side of Lk. Erie. Upland Plover: 12, Jul 7, South Dayton (GGW) — noteworthy concentration. White-rumped Sandpiper: two, Aug 9, Hamburg Town Park (TLB). Stilt Sandpiper: one, Jul 22 and 30, Athol Springs (TLB). Bonaparte's Gull: one, Jun 1, ASP (RCR et al) — unusual locality for this time of the year. Black Tern: two, Jul 9, Langford, Erie Co. (AM et al) — noteworthy locality during nesting season. Barn Owl: nest three young, Hamburg — young dead in nest and adults believed to have been shot (TLB); nest two young, Hamburg (TLB); nest five young and one egg, near Indian Falls, Gen. Co., last week of Jul (EAU). Short-eared Owl: two, Jul 22, Grand Island (LN) — first report in several years from this locality where it formerly nested regularly.

Goatsuckers — Starling: Whip-poor-will: one, Jun 6, near Wanakah, Erie Co. (KPA) — probably a late migrant in as much as this species is not known to nest in this part of the region; one, Jun 29, Hamburg (TLB). Pileated Woodpecker: one, Jun 9, near Somerset, Nia. Co. (RFA et al) — uncommon on Lake Ontario Plain but apparently increasing here as in other parts of the region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, Jun 9, near Somerset, Nia. Co. (RFA et al) — one is led to wonder if this species is more common in wet Ontario Plain woodlots than records presently indicate; one young with two adults at feeding tray, July, Batavia (GB). Red-headed Woodpecker: scattered reports primarily from areas on the south shore of Lk. Erie and in the Genesee River Valley, Alleg. Co. Acadian Flycatcher: one collected, Aug 7, Hitchcock Rd., Town of Mina, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — specimen now in collection at Buffalo Museum of Science. Tufted Titmouse: one, Jul 17, ASP (WWB); one, Aug 5, Derby (TLB). Brown Creeper: one, Jun 15, Miller Rd. near Sardinia, Erie Co. (FMR et al) — there are few known nesting localities in southern Erie Co. Winter Wren: one, Jun 5, ASP (KPA et al); one-two, Jul 8, Allenberg Bog, Town of Napoli, Catt. Co. (HDM). Carolina Wren: no reports. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one, Jun 9, OOGMA (GB); one, June 9, near Barker, Nia. Co. (RFA et al); two, Jul 7, South Dayton (GGW et al); one, Aug 3, N. Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR et al). Mockingbird: one pair successfully raised a brood of three young during June at Eden, Erie Co. — they were banded on Jun 16 (SB); one, July 6, Batavia (GB); one, Jul 15 and 19, Brocton, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); one, Jul 27, Derby (WWB). Hermit Thrush: 12, Jul 17, ASP (WWB) — noteworthy count. Swainson's Thrush: 16, Jul 17, ASP (WWB) — noteworthy count. Eastern Bluebird: appears to have increased in breeding abundance and frequency over the past two-three nesting seasons.

Vireos — Warblers: Black-and-white Warbler: one, Jun 9, near Somerset, Nia. Co. (RFA et al) — unexpected as a nesting bird on the Lake Ontario Plain. "Brewster's Warbler": one, Jun 7, Bone Run near Ivory, Chaut. Co. (RS). Cerulean Warbler: one, Jun 7, near Westfield, Chaut. Co. (RS). Kentucky Warbler: two, Jun 2, ASP (RCR et al) — apparently late migrants as they were not here a week later. Yellow-breasted Chat: one, Jun 7, near Westfield, Chaut. Co. (RS); one, Jul 18, Scio, Alleg. Co. (LLB).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Western Meadowlark: the bird reported in the last issue in the Town of Marilla, Erie Co. was last reported Jul 25 (GGW). Orchard Oriole: one, Jun 24-25, Forestville, Chaut. Co. (RCR). White-throated Sparrow: two singing males and one probable female, June 8, Java Lake Bog, Wyo. Co. (RCR et al) — the third successive nesting season this species has been present here.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for June were about average but the last six weeks of the period averaged about 3°F below normal with the greatest deviation from average occurring during the last two weeks of the period. The highest temperature was 94°F on July 2. One week later (July 9) an all time July low of 42°F was recorded at the Rochester Weather Bureau.

June was almost rainless with only .22 inches at Rochester which made it the driest June in weather bureau history. However, July was only slightly below normal in rainfall and the first half of August was somewhat above average. Some damage was done to crops that regularly mature during June but little overall damage was done to most general crops.

The outstanding bird recorded during the period was the Sooty Tern. Other noteworthy birds recorded include the Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope Franklin and Little Gulls, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Regular contributors: GD — (Mrs.) Gertrude Davis; JF — John Foster; RG — Richard Garnham; JH — (Mrs.) Jean Haller; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitzer; TK — Thomas Knupp; WCL — Walter C. Listman; AM — Alfred Maley; JM — Joseph McNett; TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett; HSM — Howard S. Miller; MO — Michael O'Hara; RTO — Richard T. O'Hara; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; AAS — Alfred A. Starling; ST — Stephan Taylor; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow.

Abbreviations: BB — Braddock's Bay; HSP — Hamlin State Park; LR — Ling Road; PMP — Powder Mill Park; SA — Shore Acres; WP — Webster Park.

Loons — Ducks: The Pied-billed Grebe was unreported. A Double-crested Cormorant flew past HSP July 28 (WCL). All species of herons still seem to be below normal numbers, although the Great Blue Heron at least seemed to be less scarce than two or three years ago. A family group of four Least Bitterns was at SA in July and one was at BB at about the same time (AAS). About 500 artificially raised young Mallards were released in the area by sportsmen this summer. Well-meaning but misguided persons started feeding some of these birds, so that later they were removed to more remote area. Unless they become wilder before hunting season starts, even the writer feels that he could hit a few of these birds. A Pintail was at SA July 27 (GOS Hike). The Green-winged Teal continued its increase as a summer resident and probably a breeding bird.

Hawks — Owls: Hawks generally seemed to be present in sharply reduced numbers. A pair of Broad-winged Hawks were reported frequently in the PMP area (JM, TM, et al). While no nest was found, it seems probable that this was a nesting pair. This species is a rare summer resident in the whole area except near the "southern tier".

The dry early summer helped the introduced Bobwhite at York to have a successful breeding season. Reports of numerous calling Bobwhites near West Walworth were finally traced to escapees from a nearby shooting preserve (Floyd Jetty).

In spite of generally high water, the early part of the fall shorebird migration seemed about average. A late spring Whimbrel was at WP June 1 (AEK) and a rather early fall migrant was at LR Aug 13-14 (HSM, AAS, et al). Twenty-three Upland Plover, the area's highest count in recent years, were at the Monroe County airport Aug 7 (AM). The first southbound Short-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper were at LR Jul 13 (HSM & AAS). A Marbled Godwit appeared at SA Jul 25 (TK) and was present to at least Jul 28, during which time it was seen by numerous observers. This species is much rarer locally than the Hudsonian Godwit. A Wilson's Phalarope was at SA Aug 11 (WCL).

A Franklin's Gull in adult summer plumage was at BB Jul 13 (HSM & AAS) and an adult Little Gull flew past HSP Jul 28 (WCL).

A Sooty Tern in perfect condition was found freshly killed at Float Bridge on Irondequoit Bay about four miles south of Lake Ontario on Jun 5 by Richard Garnham. It was taken to Allen Kemnitzer for further verification and was later turned over to the Rochester Museum. It is believed the bird was struck by a passing car. The presence of the bird is somewhat of a mystery. At the time the bird was found, a low pressure area was off the Virginia-Carolina coast attended by strong winds. However, this was local in effect. Locally, the weather was fair with light, variable winds. Wyoming County recorded its first breeding record for the Black Tern (RCR). A pair nested on a muskrat house on a small pond on Coe Road near Perry. On Jul 21, three poorly fledged young hardly able to fly were being fed by their parents. We along Lake Ontario sometimes forget our blessings birdwise.

A pair of Barn Owls nested in a silo in Parma (TET). The nest was destroyed when the silo was filled but the birds started to nest in another nearby silo.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker apparently again nested at PMP (JM & TM). This is the nearest area to Rochester where this species may be expected to summer regularly. Five late Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at Manitou Jun 2 (WCL). Six young Tufted Titmice were observed being fed in PMP June 30 (JM & TM). The species was regularly reported near Ellison Park (GD) and the West Webster area (JM & TM and Mrs. Maryanne Sunderlin). The first southbound Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Manitou Aug 3 (WCL) and they were frequently reported by the end of the period. It looks like a good late summer flight of this species locally. A Brown Creeper in Ellison Park Jul 10 (ST) suggests nesting. The Carolina Wren was unreported. A Mockingbird was at Manitou Jun 1 (RTO et al), one in full song was near Avon Jun 23 (GOS Hike), one was near Williamson Jul 14 (JF) and one was north of Hilton Aug 8-15 (WCL). Eastern Bluebirds raised young at Canadice (AM), near LeRoy (GOS Hike) and near PMP (RTO et al). Two pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes were in Parma Jul 13 (AAS et al).

Vireos — Warblers: A Nashville Warbler in West Webster Jul 21 (JM & TM) and a Myrtle Warbler at Manitou Aug 3 (WCL) are very early migrants. Among the less common species the following may be mentioned. Two male Blue-winged Warblers were seen and heard regularly in PMP during June and early July (JM, TM, et al). Five Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen and heard at Conesus Lake Jun 15 (MO et al). Two late migrant Connecticut Warblers were walking around in a backyard at Manitou Jun 2 (WCL), and three Yellow-breasted Chats were in full song near LeRoy Jun 23 (JH et al). These are regular nesting areas for these local summer residents.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The Western Meadowlark in Parma was not reported after Jun 1 (RTO et al) but the bird in Webster was regularly reported until Jun 30 (JM & TM). A singing male Orchard Oriole was at Ontario on the Lake Jun 1 (AEK) and two singing males were near Lake and County Line Road from Jun 2-9 (AEK et al). This general area is the only place in our region where this species may be expected somewhat regularly. There was no indication that any of these three birds nested. A singing Clay-Colored Sparrow was carefully observed near Canadice Lake Jun 29 (JF, AM & TET). All had previous experience with this species. The bird was observed until Jul 7 (AM). This is the area's second record of this relative newcomer. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Manitou Jun 2 (WCL).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

From mid-June until the end of July, the Region experienced hot, dry weather, though not record-breaking. August saw a decided change to cool and rather wet conditions, which slowed fruit production.

The nesting season produced little that is worthy of comment — no new species, nothing extreme. Slight gain was noted in waterfowl nesting success at Montezuma, and in the breeding population of some of the flycatchers and thrushes. Wrens, warblers and most sparrows continued relatively scarce, however. The beginning of August was marked by unusual numbers of shorebirds at Montezuma. Some of the abundant Purple Finches of the spring season remained to nest and feeding stations were well patronized by these, and by Woodpeckers, Orioles, Catbirds and Towhees. From reports reaching me (or rather, from the scarcity of such) I would say there had been fewer man-hours in the field in Region III than in most years. Consequently there are few definite figures to support the impressions of scarcity or abundance.

Abbreviations used in report: Cay L: Cayuga Lake. MFWR: Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge. SWS: Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

Contributors: Arthur A. Allen (AAA); Leslie Bemont (LB); Walter Benning (WB); Jerry Cummings (JC); Lewis Cartee, Jr. (LC); David Dunham (DD); Kay Fudge (KF); Frank Guthrie (FG); William Groesbeck (WG); Sally Hoyt (SH); James Kimball (JK); Randolph Little (RL); Dorothy McIlroy (DM); Elmer McDougall (EM); John Morse (JM); Jeff Nulle (JN); Francis Orcutt (FO); Esther Ruggles (ER); Margaret Rusk (MR); Walter Spofford (WS); Jason Walker (JW); Anne Weeks (AW); Walter Wood (WW); Peter Zachman (PZ).

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Herons: increase over last few years, MFWR; scarcer, Hornell and Elmira. Several on SWS pond all summer, and roosting in Sanctuary for first year. Little Blue Heron: one, piebald, Jun 11 and later, MFWR (JM). Cattle Egret: none reported. Common Egret: 25-30 (peak), end of Jul, MFWR, (WB); one, Jul 23, s. end of Cayuga where rarely seen, (LC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 38 (peak), Jul 4, MFWR (WB). Almost double peak of last year. American Bittern: one seen regularly early Aug at SWS; generally fewer noted each year in Region. Glossy Ibis: Jun 4, MFWR (JC); Jul 17, MFWR (WB).

Whistling Swan: Two (one imm.) Jun 19, Indian Pines at head of east branch Keuka L., (FO); ten imms., Jun 21-Jul 7 when 9 left, Hulbert's Pond on Woodhull-Troupsburg Rd., (WG). Late dates and unusual records. Mallard: usual number of broods at SWS, but brood-size averaged smaller (AAA). Black: one brood, late Jul, fully grown, SWS. Wood Duck: seven broods, SWS, compared with six in '62. Brood size small. One brood hatched Aug 5, 9 weeks later than the first. Hooded Merganser: pair seen Jun and Jul, SWS, but no nesting success.

At Montezuma, total waterfowl production increased 16% — from 2550 in 1962 to 2957 in '63. Production figures will be given this year and in the future, as being more significant than number of broods. (Figures courtesy of John Morse, Manager.) The first number given will be '63, the second '62: Canada Goose: 95, 90. Mallard, 672, 345. Black Duck: 180, 290. Blue-winged Teal: 720, 740. Wood Duck: 192, 240. Gadwall: 480, 550. Redhead: 204, 80. Shoveler: 120, 80. Green-winged Teal: 48, 30. Ruddy Duck: 90, 75. Baldpate: 72, 5. Pintail: 54, none. Canvasback: none, 6. Hooded Merganser: 30, 25. It will be noted that Blacks, Woods, Blue-winged Teal and Gadwall decreased this year.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: one, Jun 16, Almond, (WG) first in several years; one, Jun 16, Barnhill area, Newfield, feeding on dead fox in road. Red-shouldered Hawk: nested, Sapsucker Woods. Broad-winged Hawk:

three, Jul 1, Danby-Beaver Pond area (JK); several, Caroline Hills areas s.e. Ithaca; one, Aug. 6, Mark Twain Golf Course, Elmira (KF). Species is on increase as summer bird in Southern Tier. Bald Eagle: one, Jun 11, over South Elmira flying north-east (ER); Two, one ad. and one imm. (not this year's bird) various observers at MFWR, in period between Jun 8 and Jul 17. Marsh Hawk: very scarce. Four, fledged young, Jul 25, near town of Montezuma, (WS). Sparrow Hawks: unusually abundant at Keuka (FG). Ruffed Grouse: poor nesting. Bobwhite: Broods reported at Ithaca, Keuka and Burdett, but certainly not in hoped-for numbers. (Only one brood of four at SWS, for example.) Ring-necked Pheasant: good numbers at Keuka (FG). Turkey: four half-grown young, Aug 6, Catlin (WW), New Station. Woodcock: abundant. Snipe: abundant. Upland Plover: definitely on increase in Region: At usual stations, plus several; two young, Jun 16, Etna (SH); two young, Jul 2, n. of Tompkins Co. airport (AAA); nesting, late June, King Ferry (Mrs. Tom Donly). Greater Yellowlegs: one, Jul 12, MFWR (WB), first. Other dates: Jul 20, Hog Hole, Ithaca; Jul 21, Elmira. Lesser Yellowlegs: one, Jul 3, MFWR (MR) first; 12, Jul 4, MFWR (WB); 16, Jul 7, MFWR (WB). Pectoral Sandpiper: one, Jul 17, Mays Pt. Pool MFWR (WB), first; one Jul 25, Hog Hole, Ithaca, (LC). Baird's Sandpiper: one, Jul 23, Hog Hole (LC) first. Short-billed Dowitcher: four, Jul 14, MFWR, spring plumage. Semi-palmated Sandpiper: Jul 17, MFWR, first. Wilson's Phalarope, one, Jul 17, Mays Pt. Pool MFWR (WB) Rare. No summer Great Black-backed Gull reports. Common Tern: absent at Keuka. Nested n. end of Cay L. (EM). Mourning Doves: abundant everywhere. Cuckoos, both species: normal numbers, and abundant at Waterloo, where there were many tent caterpillars (JW). Screech Owl: scarce everywhere.

Goatsucker — Shrikes: Hummingbirds: scarce at Ithaca early in season, but apparently good nesting success. Hummingbirds and Kingfishers reported in good numbers at north end of Cay L. Red-headed Woodpecker: still no appreciable gain, but successful nestings at Keuka, Hall, and Ithaca. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested SWS and Coy Glen. More Imm. Hairies, fewer imm. Downies at Etna this year than last. Good Kingbird migration beginning mid-Aug. Traill's Flycatchers and Phoebe were in better numbers; Crested Flycatchers and Pewees had not gained appreciably. All Swallows: except Tree; normal success, flocking by end of July. Purple Martins: approx. 12 pairs nested SWS; last ones left about Aug 15. Blue Jays: abundant everywhere. Tufted Titmice: continuing slight increase, except in Keuka area, where are gone except at Dresden. House Wren: continues scarce in comparison with six or eight years ago. Carolina Wren: no successful nests at Ithaca; a well-documented nesting at Seneca Lake Camp, s. of Dresden. Yg. fledged Jul 11 (PZ). Long-billed Marsh Wren: good numbers north end of Cay L. Short-billed: very scarce. Mockingbird: gone from Esperanza after several years; one, Jun 27, n.e. of Carter Creek Road at junction Rte. 13 (SH); one singing steadily, Cayuga Hgts section Ithaca, during last week Jul.

Brown Thrashers: increase this year — many reports of having them as residents for first time. Robins: better numbers this year than for several years. Wood Thrushes: slightly more abundant. Hermit Thrushes and Veeries: scarcer than ever. Bluebirds: all areas except Ithaca, where the count was the worst yet, reported some increase this year. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nested Stewart Park, Ithaca, and near Dryden. Loggerhead Shrike: one only, late July, Interlaken (LB). Starlings: seemed somewhat less abundant.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireos: no reports of nesting birds. Red-eyed Vireo: scarce everywhere. Nesting birds at SWS dropped to 13 from 18 in '62, and 25 in 1960. Prothonotary Warbler: one, Jul 28, Stewart Park, Ithaca (JN) rare here. Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers: both scarcer. Chestnut-sided Warblers: normal numbers this year. Prairie Warbler: one only, early July, Conn. Hill where there has been a small colony in recent years (AAA). Yellowthroats: abundant, more so than Yellow Warblers this year. Yellow-breasted Chat: only two or three reports. Canada Warbler: 4 pairs, in contrast with 7 in '62 and 10 in '61, SWS (AAA). Redstarts: still scarce, missing from various usual localities.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks: scarce. Meadowlarks on increase, along with Grackles and Redwings. Western Meadowlark: one, n. of Penn Yan, Jun and Jul, (FG). Baltimore Orioles: successful nestings, more reports than usual of Orioles patronizing suet feeders and hummingbird feeders. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: seemed scarce early in season, but more in evidence by early August, although Dunham found approximately the same number of territories in Renwick (Stewart Park) this year as last year. Evening Grosbeak: one, male, Jul 6, Sunset Park, Ithaca, (AW). Purple Finch: increase in number of breeding birds. Young at feeders by late July. Goldfinch: one taking cotton, Jun 4, Etna (SH), unusually early nesting record. Breeding population good. Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's Sparrows: hard to find all summer. Clay-colored Sparrow: one, Jun 2, Cayuga Hgts. $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. from location of past four years. Disappeared shortly thereafter. No reports of White-throated Sparrow this summer. Song Sparrows: abundant, good nesting success.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The weather during the period was quite variable from one location to another and the two weather stations in Broome Co. confirm this by reporting some monthly averages on opposite sides of the norm. At the Binghamton Post Office, in the river valley, June was warm and dry, July averaged close to normal in temperature and was on the wet side and August quite cool and dry. At Broome Co. Airport, up on a hilltop, June was warm and wet, July was cool and dry and August even cooler than it was in the valley, as compared to the norm, and dry. In Binghamton the temperature was 90 or above on ten different days but up on the hilltop it never did get that warm. Precipitation was quite spotty, more than half of it falling on six widely separated days, the two weather stations not even agreeing on which six days.

The closest thing to a rarity during the period was the Acadian Flycatcher in Tioga County. It is the only known one in the region in the last ten years, but they are listed as irregular summer residents at Ithaca. The other most notable departure from normal was the large population of Purple Finches.

There were what seemed like a large number of reports of unsuccessful nestings. This may well have been a result of the new attention focused on nesting records as a result of the nesting record cards distributed by the Laboratory of Ornithology, but some of the Bluebird results, at least are known to be a change from previous years. In one interesting, although probably not abnormal, case of milk snake found dead on a road was observed to have had a nestful of young birds for its last meal.

As usual there was a sharp decrease in observer activity during the summer months. So large a decrease, in fact, that conclusions about reduced numbers must be viewed with caution.

Contributors initials: LB — L. Bemont, DB — D. Bendle, RB — R. Burland, GC — G. Corderman, M&AD — M. & A. Davis, C&JD — C. and J. Davis, LD — L. Dean, AE — A. Evelien, CG — C. Gerould, JG — J. Gustafson, GK — G. Kirk, FL — F. Jinaberry, SL — S. Lincoln, HM — H. Marsi, RP — R. Pantle, FQ — F. Quick, MS — M. Sheffield, RS — R. Sheffield, AS — A. Stratton, E&NW — E. & N. Washburn, DW — D. Weber, MW — M. White, R&SW — R. & S. White, RW — R. Williams, SW — S. Wilson.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: six nests counted in a colony at Candor (DW) and seven in a colony in nearby Pennsylvania south of Owego (DB); reportedly scarce at Newark Valley (LD) and Oneonta (RB) but otherwise they were reported in normal numbers. Green Heron: Jun 7, Sidney (FQ), a nest with 4 young; seemed less plentiful than usual in the

Norwich area (R&SW) but there were "lots" at Owego (RW). Common Egret: Aug 1 and 2, Campville (DB), only reports during the period. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1, Jun 25, Ludlow (AS); "during Aug", Owego (DB); the only reports so far this year. American Bittern: Jun 2 and 4, Oxford (AS); Jul 20, Owego (SL); "during Jul" Owego (DB); no others.

Mallard and Black Duck: a few scattered reports from Cortland, Owego and the Triple Cities area; Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC) both species accompanied by young. Blue-winged Teal: 3 or more, Aug 11, Whitney Point (MS), the only report during the period. Wood Duck: the usual small number of reports from Newark Valley, Cortland and the Triple Cities area; Aug 6, young near Vestal (HM, GC); 12, Jul 20 at Lounsberry west of Owego (MW, CG).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 7, Jun 26, Windsor (SW); 8, Jul 14, at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania south of Binghamton (E&NW); other reports from Choconut Center (MS), South Owego (DB) and Masonville (SW). Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk: missed by most observers so seldom reported. Red-tailed Hawk: normal numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: Jun 19, Tioga Center (RW); 1, Jun 23, Guilford (R&SW). Broad-winged Hawk: Owego (RW), a successful nesting observed through the summer; scattered Jun reports in the Triple Cities area but then none until Aug 4 at Chenango Forks (M&AD). Bald Eagle: 1 adult, Jul 29, Walton (Mr. & Mrs. C. Judd, via SW), the only report. Marsh Hawk: a few reports from Owego (CG) Oxford (AS) and the Triple Cities. Sparrow Hawk: abundant except at Oneonta where they were "not easy to find" (RB).

Bobwhites: 1, Jun 19, at Cranberry Lake (E & NW); occasionally during the period at Candor (AE, DW, GK). Virginia Rail: Jun 2, Homer (D. Weaver), a nest containing 9 eggs; Jun 10 (JG), the same nest contained 10 eggs; 1, Jun 15, Sherburne (R & SW); adult with 3 young, Jul 7, Norwich (R & SW). Killdeer: abundant except at Oneonta where they were "seldom" noted (RB). Upland Plover: 3, Jun 23, Guilford (R & SW). Solitary Sandpiper: 1, Jul 20, Sherburne (R & SW); Jul 21, Castle Creek (MS). Lesser Yellowlegs: Jul 20, Owego (MW, CG). Least Sandpiper: 1 Aug 3, Sherburne (R & SW); Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 4, Jul 20, Sherburne (R & SW); Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC).

Ring-billed Gull: Jun 19, Endwell (HM, GC); Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC); no other reports. Common Tern: Jun 10, Campville (CG). Black Tern: Jul 27, Owego (DB). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: except at Owego more commonly reported than Black-billed for a change. Barn Owl: reported nesting in a barn near Owego (J. Shuler). Screech Owl: few reports; June 17, Owego (RW, MW) a young bird. Barred Owl: 2 or more, June 25 and 1, Aug 1, Oxford (AS).

Goatsucker — Shrikes: Nighthawk: noted at Owego, Cortland, Oneonta and Triple Cities. Chimney Swift: abundant. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: "few reports" at Owego but plentiful elsewhere. Belted Kingfisher: at Owego, "believed fewer than last year" (RW); in Chenango Co. "lots and lots" (R & SW). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 3 hand-reared by C. Wilkins in Cortland, two leaving after 10 days but one "runt" still around at end of period (from Jun 11); generally abundant with good nesting success. Pileated Woodpecker: Owego (RW), "more reports of more birds seen — I had a nesting pair". Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 pair in the Cortland area (JG); seen daily at Endwell from Jun 1 to Jul 27 and once more Aug 12 (FL); 1, Jul 28, Sherburne (R&SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Jun 9, near Arena in the Catskill Forest preserve (LB); Jul 5, Cranberry Lake (E&NW), young birds; 2, Aug 15, Norwich (R&SW), 1 adult and one young; also at Cortland during the period.

Kingbird: generally plentiful. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug 9, Owego (RW, MW). Acadian Flycatcher: Jun 23, Goodrich Settlement (RW), identified by two part call with accent on the higher, ascending and longer second part — it was seen perched on a wire over shrubby thickets along a

railroad track, with a small swampy pasture area nearby. Traill's Flycatcher: "very plentiful" in the Sherburne—Norwich area (R & SW). Least Flycatcher: plentiful in the Owego (RW) and Triple Cities areas and southern Delaware Co. (LB) but not at Oneonta (RB). Tree Swallow: 40 pair nesting at Greene (C & JD); at Oxford latest brood left nest Jul 9 (AS). Cliff Swallow: at Greene (C & JD) 11 pair nested and all were successful in raising young; Aug 11, Whitney Point (MS), young birds. Purple Martin: est. 180-200 in 3 houses, Owego (Mrs. C. Hills); 2, Jul 19, Oxford (AS), "first here ever" at farm. Tufted Titmouse: fairly regular at Endwell during Jun and first half of Jul (E & NW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Jul 26, Norwich (R & SW). Brown Creeper: 1, Jul 14, Cranberry Lake (E & NW); during period, Cortland (JG). House Wren: at Greene, "We had 2 pair — much less than usual". Winter Wren: Jun 8, Castle Creek (MS) and singing at the same location the next day; Jun 9, Pharsalia (R&SW), also singing. Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 2, Vestal (MS); at Norwich a large marsh "loaded" with them (R & SW). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1, Jul 20, Norwich (R & SW); the only report. Mockingbird: "2 unconfirmed reports," Oneonta (RB). Robin: "down". Oneonta (RB); poor nesting success, Oxford (AS); "thick around here this year", Newark Valley (LD). Wood Thrush: "lots", Norwich (R&SW); "down", Oneonta (RB). Hermit Thrush: of 9 reports, mostly designated as singing males, 4 were in nearby Pennsylvania, 2 at Owego (RW), 1 at Ludlow (AS). 1 at Unadilla (FQ), and one or more at Chenango Valley State Park near Chenango Forks Jul 7 (MS). Swainson's Thrush: 1, Jun 9, Pharsalia (R & SW) singing but not seen. Bluebird: at Cortland, 100 boxes up — 18 pair — 81 eggs — 62 young raised — 38 young and 4 adult females banded (JG); at Owego, 16 young known to have fledged, definitely lower than last year (RW); at Greene, 3 pair each had two broods and possibly a 4th pair had one late brood (C&JD); at Choconut Center, from 4 nests 7 dead nestlings and no fledglings (MS, RS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jul 21, Chenango Forks (M & AD); seldom reported after early Jun. Cedar Waxwing: very plentiful all summer.

Vireos — Warblers: Red-eyed Vireo: seemed normally abundant in most of the region but at Oneonta "practically non-existent" (RB). Golden-winged Warbler: Aug 8, Deposit (SW), still singing; last report Aug 10, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Brewster's Warbler: Aug 10 and 12, Chenango Forks (M&AD). Blue-winged Warbler: Aug. 10, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Nashville Warbler: almost certainly a regular and fairly common breeder through most of the region although frequently overlooked, this year reported nesting only at Owego (RW). Yellow Warbler: abundant as usual. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Jun 9, Castle Creek (MS); 1, Jun 14, Owego (RW). Myrtle Warbler: 1, Jun 23, Michigan Hollow (CG); during period, Cortland (JG). Black-throated Green Warbler: reported fairly regularly at Cortland and Owego and in the Triple Cities area. Blackburnian Warbler: Jun 17, Owego (RW) feeding young; reported fairly regularly in the Triple Cities area throughout the period. Chestnut-sided Warbler: abundant; Aug. 10, Norwich, an adult feeding 2 young (R&SW). Blackpoll Warbler: late spring migrants to Jun 4 Choconut Center (MS, RS). Ovenbird: scarce at Oneonta (RB) but otherwise normal. Northern Waterthrush: 3 singing, Jun 9, Pharsalia (R & SW); Jun 9, Castle Creek (MS); 1, Jun 25, Ludlow (AS); 1, Aug 4, Norwich (R & SW); 1, Aug 4, Westover (RP), banded. Louisiana Waterthrush: 1, Jun 9, Arena (LB); 1, Jun 25, Ludlow (AS). Mourning Warbler: Jun 14, Owego (MW); Jul 21, Castle Creek (MS). Yellowthroat: abundant as usual. Yellow-breasted Chat: Jun 9, Chenango Bridge (MS); 2, Aug 10, Westover (RP); Aug. 15, Choconut Center (MS). Canada Warbler: fairly common. American Redstart: common, especially in the Catskill Forest Preserve area in early Jun (LB).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: in good supply in Chenango, Tioga and possibly Cortland Counties but seemed scarce around Binghamton and Oneonta. Redwinged Blackbird: flocks started reappearing about Aug 1.

Baltimore Oriole: conspicuous and abundant until about Jun 30, then conspicuous again starting about Aug 10, but a noticeable decrease in the number of reports between. Common Grackle: grossly abundant. Brown-headed Cowbird: conspicuous and abundant through Jun 12 then more retiring. Scarlet Tanager: generally in good supply.

Cardinal: "seen at Sherburne, Norwich, New Berlin and White Store" all in Chenango County (R & SW); very common around the Triple Cities. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: seemed fairly common around the Triple Cities but at Oneonta "not many" (RB); young with adults, Jul 8 and 9, Oxford (AS). Indigo Bunting: very common. Purple Finch: very many more than usual in most of the region including quite a few reports of nesting; at Endwell the bright red males and possibly the adult females disappeared about Aug 1 (FL); at Deposit, where a large breeding population is normal, "Great nesting success again this year: I have banded 106 in Jul and Aug, mostly birds of the year" (SW).

Savannah Sparrow: "fair" at Owego and around Binghamton. Grasshopper Sparrow: fewer reported than last year in the Triple Cities area; also reported at Oxford (AS) and South Owego. Henslow's Sparrow: about the same number of summer reports as last year in spite of poor numbers earlier. Vesper Sparrow: fewer reports than last year. Slate-colored Junco: Jun 8, Castle Creek (MS); 1, Jul 25, Deposit (SW); Aug 15, Endwell (FL); at Owego they "seem more abundant than last year—2 more nesting sites located" (RW); in Chenango Co., "quite a few" (R & SW). White-throated Sparrow: 1, Jun 5, Binghamton (HM); 1 singing, Jul 20, Norwich (R & SW) and 1, Aug 10, Norwich (R & SW).
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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

Both June and July were slightly cooler than normal, although both had some hot periods. July was very dry, with less than half the normal rainfall. August was exceptionally cool, but this was too late to affect the breeding season.

As suggested at the Jamestown meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, some effort was made towards obtaining definite breeding data. Five species were selected for special examination in Region 5: Great Blue Heron, Upland Sandpiper, Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Purple Martin. Details of the resulting observations are given below.

Counts of warblers were made in tall-deciduous areas of the Tug Hill Plateau for comparison with previous counts in more scrubby, boggy areas having black spruce. Exploratory visits were made to the Pineville Bog, a tamarack bog near Pulaski, and to the vicinity of the deciduous St. Mary's Bog near Parish, both on the Tug Hill outskirts, as well as to the black spruce section of Cicero Bog.

Immature Evening Grosbeaks were seen in the Tug Hill, and more Purple Finches were noted as breeding in the Region after the February-March invasion. As usual, there were some rarities: the first regional record of a Clay-colored Sparrow, the first nest of the Orchard Oriole, a spring Connecticut Warbler, and the now almost regular Ruff at Onondaga Lake.

Abbreviations: arr — arrived; imm — immature; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Onon L — Onondaga Lake; RSP — Rome Sand Plains; Syr — Syracuse; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; VBSP — Verona Beach State Park.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; HA — Hazel Aspinwall; MB — Maude Bitz; VB — Virginia Billings; EE — Emma Evans; SH — Stuart Hosler; MM — Marge Mathis; RN — Roger Nevinger; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; FR — Frank Richardson; MR — Margaret Rusk; CS — Christian Spies; FS — Fritz Scheider; WS — Walter Spofford.

CORRIGENDA: Kingbird, July 1963, Region 5, should read: p. 170, Chimney Swift: three . . . Apr 20; p. 171, Chat: Camillus pairs **not** noted until May 26.

Loons — Ducks: No records of Loons. Great Blue Heron: rookery of 40-50 pairs at Cross Lake was visited on Jun 19 (SH, FR) when many large young were observed; Scott Swamp rookery was active but no count was made. Common Egret: unrecorded outside HIGMA; max there 11 (fide G. Gaze) in late Jun. Cattle Egret: two near Bridgeport Jun 11 (JP) — the only definitely-identified record this year. Black-crowned Night Heron: one each, Scott Swamp Jul 31 (JP, MR) and Onon L Aug 14 (WS). Least Bittern: nest found at HIGMA (D. Allen); young caught at SP (A. Starling); also noted at Clay Swamp and a small marsh near Cicero.

Canada Goose: 29 broods at HIGMA (50 last year); brood size averaged 4.4 (RN); no nesting at Stevens Pond. Dabbling duck breeding population at HIGMA were noticeably lower than the last two years (last year's figures are given in parentheses): Mallard 38 (70), Black three (one-two), Gadwall two (three), Pintail four (15), Green-winged Teal two (four), Blue-winged Teal five (ten), Shoveler none (two), Wood Duck 14 (20). Average brood size of Mallard was 7.7 and Wood Duck 10.2, somewhat lower than usual, perhaps due to freezing nights during the first two weeks of the nesting season. All HIGMA data from RN. Breeding success of ducks was much lower than previously at Tully, probably due to increased boating (JP). Gadwall: one at Stevens Pond Aug 9 (CS) — there seems to be an increasing number of records away from HIGMA. Green-winged Teal: present at Stevens Pond but no evidence of breeding; one, Cicero Swamp Jun 28.

Redhead: single brood at HIGMA (RN) compared with nine in 1961. Scaup (sp?): one Oneida L Jul 27 (MR) is one of the few summer records for this species. No reports of Hooded Merganser. Common Merganser: five, Salmon R Reservoir Aug 4 might be local breeders since this is near the Tug Hill.

Hawks — Owls: Most information on breeding hawks was given in the previous issue. One report of breeding Marsh Hawk was received: three young were raised near Altmar (C. Kaine); one seen Toad Harbor Jul 27. Broad-winged Hawk: two sightings on the SW fringe of the Tug Hill. Bald Eagle: two seen during the summer at Big Moose (Bowes).

Turkey: reported during the summer at HIGMA but no definite evidence of breeding (RN).

Upland Sandpiper, one of the census species — all records are given: two near Pulaski Jun 28 (FS); adult and three young near Cicero Jul 7 (MR); two adults and two young near the SE corner of Oneida L Aug 1 (DA); a pair near Camroden in Jun and two pairs near Rome (HA).

Arrival dates of migrant shorebirds were normal: Ringed Plover Jul 24 Onon L, Turnstone Jul 31 Onon L, Black-bellied Plover Aug 14 Onon L, Solitary Sandpiper (only two records) one Jul 18 SSSP (EE) and one Aug 14 VBSP (DA), Greater Yellowlegs Jul 21 HIGMA, Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 13 Onon L, Knot one VBSP Aug 14 (DA), Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 30 Onon L, White-rumped three Onon L Aug 14, Baird's one Onon L Aug 14. Least: arr Jul 14 Onon L; counts of 225 Jul 30 and 315 Aug 14, both Onon L, are higher than normal. Dowitcher: unrecorded. Stilt Sandpiper: one HIGMA Jul 21; two-four Onon L Jul 24-Aug 14. Semipalmated: arr Jul 19 VBSP. Western: one Aug 12 Onon L (DP, JP). Ruff: sighted for the fourth consecutive year, at Onon L on Jul 29 (JP, MR). Sanderling: arr Jul 18 SP. Wilson's Phalarope: one, Jul 29 and 31 (JP, MR) and Aug 3 (P. Buckley) Onon L; from the plumage it is considered that two individuals were involved.

Bonaparte's Gull: juvenile present at Onon L on Jul 14 (MR, WS) is early. Common Tern: 40-50 large non-flying young present in early Jul at Onon L (DP, WS) with 40-50 pairs of adults; numbers increased rapidly in Aug at VBSP; 200 being present by the end of the period. Caspian Tern: 16 SP Aug 3 ((EE) is a fair count.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: at least three males heard calling and watched displaying during May and to mid-Jun (when observations stopped) at Pleasant L, Phoenix, in a sandy oak and white pine woods, similar to the RSP location. Hummingbird: a male observed displaying — performed five U-shaped dips through the air before flying off — Tug Hill Jun 28.

Kingfisher — census: family group of four young at Salmon R Reservoir Aug 4; three birds regularly at SP; present and probably breeding at two Rome locations; several present TRGMA and HIGMA around the ponds; a bird seen along the Oneida R and one at a marshy pond in E. Syr (do they breed along the banks of the Erie Canal, where they are often seen, in E. Syr?); two or three birds seen at three different locations around Otisco L; two probable breeding locations near Skaneateles (one active burrow found); a bird at nest burrow on Tully Farms Rd. Jul 6; an adult seen feeding an imm at Tully L (M. Estoff).

Pileated Woodpecker: birds present at sites where reported in the past year or so; newly reported locations are two in southern Madison Co. Red-bellied: an imm again at Plainville, at a new site, Jul 29 (MB). Red-headed: a field note in this issue documents their status in the Oneida area, which, despite being in the eastern part of the region, certainly has more Red-headed Woodpeckers than any other sector; a pair at Oriskany (VB); single birds seen at two locations nr Baldwinsville (SH); one nr Lafayette; a pair at Skaneateles; a pair in late May and an imm in Aug at a site nr Liverpool (CS) and two young raised in a hickory tree north of New Haven on L. Ontario (I. Stone) are the only regional reports.

Least Flycatchers: the commonest flycatcher of the taller deciduous woods of the Tug Hill — a count of 35 per 7 miles there Jun 28, with five Wood Pewees the next — commonest Tyrannid. Traill's: the locally less common "webeo" form was heard, with "fitz-bews" in the same areas, at Clay and Cicero in Jun (MR). Yellow-bellied: two Brookfield Jun 8 (Whites) quite late for migrants — possibly summering birds? Olive-sided: one Big Moose Jun 1, and three Tug Hill Jun 28.

Bank Swallow: previously unreported active colonies of — 20 holes near Hinckley L, 30 Williamstown, 100 Tully Farms, and 500 (!) Sherill; the largest of the colonies in gravel pits in the sandy country near Phoenix had 450 holes; 35 holes and about as many birds present at Oswego harbor in the coal-silt pile (reported **Kingbird** Oct. 1955). Rough-winged Swallow: a few regularly nest in crevices of a stone wall along Seneca River n. of Belgium (FR); about five birds traveling to and from the reinforcing pipes in the Oswego harbor breakwaters (first reported **Kingbird** Oct. 1955); a few birds seen at Port Ontario Jul 2. Cliff Swallow: only colonies reported are of 34 nests n. of Rome, 14 near Canada Creek, 20 at Churchville, and three e. of Redfield; about 25 birds were present at Toad Harbor Jul 27 but nests were not located; no activity was seen at the former Tully and Cicero colonies. Purple Martin: a field note will report their status around Oneida L; FR writes from Baldwinsville "This seems to be a good area for this species and they are increasing with the addition of more Martin houses . . . a proper nest house . . . in a suitable location . . . is usually successful. House Sparrows often succeed in occupying a few nest holes along with the Martins . . . (Martins) migrate in mid-August. After migration House Sparrows move in for late broods. I estimate that at least 100 pairs nest in this area." Occupied houses were also noted along Onon L, Oneida R, and L Ontario; on Jul 17 the season's max of 15 adults and imms was counted at the Erie Blvd., Syr, house; this house was vacated by mid-Aug.

Tufted Titmouse: at Baldwinsville feeders again. Red-breasted Nuthatch: pair came to feeders in Sherrill all summer (fide DA; H. Nodecker); a fuzzy imm Jun 28 in the Tug Hill (FS). Brown Creeper: present Brookfield; single singing birds Camillus May 26 (FS) and in a swamp near Sherrill Jul 5 (MR) indicate breeding. Winter Wren: considered scarce by several observers — the Whites could find none this summer at Brookfield; five birds in seven miles of Tug Hill woods Jun 28 is not high. Carolina and Short-billed Marsh Wrens: unreported. Mockingbird: one Tully Jun 8 (JP); one Baldwinsville Jul 8-9 (MM) — one was belatedly reported as having been there in late summer 1962.

Hermit Thrush: max 15 on May 30 RSP — the higher numbers of the past two-three years there are being maintained; Hermit numbers are low in comparison with the other thrushes in the deciduous Tug Hill woods — two Hermit Jun 27 and 28 to three and eight Wood, three and 15 Swainson's, and 25 Veery; a few Hermits noted at St. Mary's Bog; present at Brookfield again; none noted at either Cicero Bog or the Pleasant L pine-oak barrens, both places where they were found in 1957. Bluebird: nest with three young Baldwinsville (fide MM); pair feeding three young in nest with older juveniles nearby, at TRGMA (SH, FR) where nesting hadn't been observed for several years; two probable nestings Sherrill; birds present s. Madison Co., and at Rome; near Utica three nestings, one of these by a pair which raised two broods of five and three; around Lafayette at least six successful nestings, by five pairs — in sum, the status of the Bluebird is about as last year.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pair building nest n. of Bridgeport on Oneida L May 13, feeding young in nest Jun 7 and 11 (JP, MR) — first nesting record e. of Syr; pair present at North Bay into late Jun (where one was first reported Apr 27) may also have nested; these records help explain the presence of migrants at the east end of Oneida L noted several times in the past. Loggerhead Shrike: only reports are two sightings in the Sherrill area (DA) and one Aug 18 Texas (MR) where a bird was seen this spring.

Warblers: Tug Hill censuses: On Jun 27 a 3-mile census was made in the Littlejohn Game Management area through a section of taller deciduous second growth with yellow birch predominant, and a few scattered conifers. The census route was bisected by numerous marshy sloughs in the valleys. On Jun 28 a 7-mile census was taken in a similar area e. of Redfield. In the latter, the deciduous growth is not as tall, there is somewhat more conifer including black spruce, open boggy areas are larger, and several alder-bordered streams parallel and cross the census route. Warbler counts are as follows (not reduced to birds per mile); the first figure is for Jun 27 and the second for Jun 28 — Black-and-white 0, 4; Magnolia 2, 3; Black-throated Blue 9, 20; Black-throated Green 10, 20; Blackburnian 0, 8; Chestnut-sided 4, 30; Ovenbird 5, 14; Northern Waterthrush 4, 3; Mourning 9, 31; Yellowthroat 6, 15; Canada 5, 8; Redstart 30, 35. Except for Redstart, which is higher, and Mourning, about the same, warbler counts in these areas are lower than those in the brushy spruce-and alder-bog sectors of the Tug Hill. Further, Nashville and Myrtle, common in the conifers near bogs, and Parula, which occurs in low numbers there, were unrecorded above.

Other summering-warbler records: Black-and-white; noted at Cicero Bog, Pineville Bog, and a sandy-boggy area of VBSP. Golden-winged: three singing in brushy edges of Cicero Bog Jun 9; a male Golden-winged and female Blue-winged appeared together in response to spishing near E. Dead Creek, Baldwinsville, and there were at least three other birds singing the Golden-winged song, Jun 18 (MR); both a male and a female Golden-winged were at Plainville again (MB); a Brewster's sighted in the known Golden-winged location at TRGMA (SH); a brushy field near Camillus was territory for at least one Golden-winged and two Brewster's — one with yellow wing-bars and light-gray breast, the other with white wing-bars and a yellow wash on the breast (MR et al); singing Golden-winged were at two locations HIGMA; in addition, singing Golden-winged at two Jamesville sites and along the south shore of the Oneida R in late May indicate probable breeders. Parula: three

in a mile, Big Moose Jun 1. Magnolia: present RSP; two-four Cicero Bog; more unusual is a singing bird in a small spruce plantation on the Syr U. campus in early Jun (MR). Black-throated Blue; two at St. Mary's Bog. Myrtle: three singing males Jun 29 in a red pine plantation at Sandy Creek (FS) — this and the Magnolia record indicate how increased conifer planting can extend the ranges of "northern" warblers; six Myrtles RSP this year. Cerulean: the following extensions to its known summering range in Region 5 are not surprising, as all are typical habitat along watercourses and some fill gaps between previously-known sites — new sites are Oneida R, s. end of Otisco L, and Chittenango Creek s. of Chittenango (MR); also present again at Toad Harbor (one singing), a pair this year at Short Point Bay, and at two Marcellus locations again (MR); summered again at Tully (JP). Blackburnian: noted at SSSP, Sandy Creek, and St. Mary's Bog, all locations where the species is to be expected (hemlock or pine present) and where Black-throated Greens are common.

Pine Warbler: only one at RSP, May 30. Louisiana Waterthrush: a check Jul 14 of formerly-occupied gorges s. of Sherrill turned up a family group with food-begging fledglings in two of the three glens which still had flowing water (DA et al); four birds were in Ilion Gorge in May (E. Curtis) — a location which should be checked in future; last year's locations again active — a pair at Bucktail Falls, one carrying food Jun 19 Cedarvale, and singles at Gully Rd and Fish Gulf; not found at Tully location. Connecticut Warbler: one Jun 1 Jordan (banded by D. Whitman) is a most unusual spring record. Mourning: after Redstart, the most common warbler in the deciduous Tug Hill (see above); formerly thought of as a "northern" and rather scarce warbler, for the past few years it has been found in practically every deciduous woods with brushy tangles, anywhere in the Region, and is roughly as common as the Canada; several observers noted Mourning locations new this year for the first time. Hooded: a scolding male Jun 30 on L Ontario n. of New Haven (MR), the westernmost L. Ontario location known to be currently active; three singing at the Martisco location; again present Mud L; not found at former Green Lakes site. Canada: eight in the Bucktail Falls gorge (less than a mile) Jun 19 is a high count.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Bobolink: two observers on the Ontario lake plain thought there were fewer, but immediately n. of Syr numbers seemed good — up to 20 along a few miles of suitable fields. Orchard Oriole: a nesting at Sherrill produced one young fledged about Jun 27 (E. Scheible, P. Paquette); this is the second regional nesting record, the other being at Hamilton in 1899 (Embody, in Eaton, *Birds of New York*).

Evening Grosbeak: the sighting of an imm as well as a female near Redfield Jun 28 (FS) and of adults feeding fledglings n. of Boonville Jul 9 (DA and David Ackley) indicates that their breeding range has extended into the Tug Hill; also seen at Big Moose where both crossbills were also sighted during the summer.

Purple Finch: increased number of reports from the immediate Syr vicinity as well as at Rome seems not to be an artifact — i.e. that there really are more birds, probably breeding, following the late-winter 1963 invasion; about three per mile in Tug Hill Jun 28 is approximately the same concentration as in the more coniferous areas there in previous years; one feeding a fledgling RSP Jul 5 (R. Sener). Towhee: 40 singing Jul 13 in two square miles of open blueberry bog points up the dominance of this finch in Cicero Bog.

Grasshopper Sparrow: newly reported locations includes the "sparrow fields" at Sandy Creek and the L Ontario army base; the Rome air base (HA); around Otisco L (B. Starr) and in s. Madison Co (Whites). Henslow's: locations discovered this season — Sandy Creek and the L Ontario army base, near Parish, s. Madison Co., Otisco L, Jamesville, and near HIGMA — include both hilly and flat country in widely scattered areas, further demonstrating that the Henslow's range in the Region is not limited geographically but only by the availability of suitable habitat. Junco: five plus a spotted imm in Littlejohn area Jun 27. Clay-colored Sparrow: one

singing repeatedly in a brushy field (habitat of other sparrows including Chipping) near a pine plantation, Sandy Creek, Jun 29 (FS et al) not found subsequently. The following sparrow census was made Jun 30 in a section of the L Ontario army base n. of New Haven: 35 Savannah, 3 Grasshopper, 1 Henslow's, 8 Vesper, 1 Swamp, 10 Song. Of note is the high number of Savannahs; this species, though probably present, was not noted in the Sandy Creek sparrow field, where taller bushes provided Chipping and Field Sparrow habitat. White-throated Sparrow: noted in the Pineville Bog and near Parish, both on the sw. edge of the Tug Hill; also ten VBSP Jun 23, 30 Cicero Bog Jul 13, and one SSSP Jul 18 — doubtless a nearby breeder.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

June and July were warm and dry, but August brought frequent rains, some of them heavy. It was a poor year for breeding ducks at the Wilson Hill Game Management Area (WHGMA) because the water was too deep. The Conservation Dept. plans to correct this condition. Fewer shore birds were reported this year at El Dorado.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: two adults with young at Yellow Lake Jul 1. Great Blue Heron: 15 at Mud Lake near Lake Bonaparte Jun 16, and perhaps there is a nesting colony in that area. Glossy Ibis: one at PRGMA (Perch Lake Game Management Area) for a few days in early Jun. Canada Goose: A good breeding season produced about 100 young at PRGMA, and about 135 at WHGMA. Banded geese from WHGMA cross the St. Lawrence River to the Canadian side and in Aug 50-70 could be seen in a picnic area (Chrysler Park) near Upper Canada Village. They were not afraid of cars and we stopped to let them pass. Redhead: seen early at PRGMA, but probably did not breed there this year.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 14 near Somerville and two miles from the 1962 roost. One was seen in the town of Fowler, St. Lawrence Co Jul 11. Goshawk: three young in a nest in northern Lewis Co. banded by Ben Burt Jun 22. They were nearly old enough to leave the nest. Osprey: two young seen on a nest in St. Lawrence Co. Jul 1. This is a new nest some 300 yd from an old nest. Ruffed Grouse: Allen reports seeing a number of young and believes they had a good breeding season.

As usual the best place to see shore birds was at El Dorado and most of the following were seen there. Semipalmated Plover: Aug 1-15, Max 6. Ruddy Turnstone: Aug 1-5, max 8. Common Snipe: Jul 11 and Aug 11. Whimbrel: Aug 3 (Evans). Upland Plover: nine seen from nine miles of road east of Watertown. They may be increasing slowly in numbers. Spotted Sandpiper: at El Dorado in Jul and Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: one, Aug 1. Lesser Yellowlegs: Aug 1-15, max 5. Knot, two, Aug 15. Pectorial Sandpiper: Aug 1-11. White-rumped Sandpiper: two, Aug 15. Least Sandpiper: Jul and Aug. Dowitcher: one in Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jul 11-Aug. 15. Sanderling: Aug 1-15, high 12. Northern Phalarope: one, Aug 15. Caspian Tern: Aug 1-15, high 16 Aug 3. Bonaparte's Gull: six, two still in spring plumage at El Dorado Aug 15. Great Horned, Barred and Long-eared Owls: all three in High Falls area near Wanakena, southeastern St. Lawrence Co. Jul 5-7.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Olive-sided Flycatcher: near Wanakena Jul 5. Traill's Flycatcher: nesting near Watertown Jun 2. Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 at PRGMA Jun 23. They are seen in this section nearly every year. One was seen on the Perch Lake Road Aug 11. Short-billed Marsh Wren: PRGMA Aug 11.

Vireos — Sparrows: Warblers seen near South Edwards, St. Lawrence Co. Jul 2-4 include: Black-and-white, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Yellowthroat, Canada and Redstart.

Western Tanager: a bird identified as a Western Tanager was seen at Black Lake in St. Lawrence Co. Jun 1 by Hubert Ives of Syracuse. It was a singing male described as having yellow underparts, brick-red head and wing-bars. Evening Grosbeak: reported in southern Lewis Co. and in St. Lawrence Co. A newspaper report says that Evening Grosbeaks were seen near the Fish Creek Club nine miles west of Constableville and that young were seen Jul 4. A female was seen near Highmarket Jul 27 (Gordon). A pair and four fledglings appeared in the yard of L. Blake near Potsdam in late Jul and she has seen them nearly every day. White-throated Sparrow: more numerous than last year near South Edwards, and are extending their breeding range to the south. One near Pleasant Lake in early Jul.

173 Haley St., Watertown

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

This report is in the nature of a stop-gap and has all the disadvantages of being written from outside the region. After this issue the regional report will be written by Miss Harriet Delafield. Her address is Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake. The editorial board of 'The Kingbird' are grateful to Mr. Lesperance for his work in compiling the regional report from 1955 to 1963.

The highlights of the season included further occurrences of the Clay-colored Sparrow, sightings of a Golden Eagle, nests of Goshawk and Philadelphia Vireo and a report of several Towhees.

Initials of contributors: Miss A. Amstutz — AA; Miss H. Delafield — HD; Mrs. J. Delahanty — JD; Mr. A. Kemnitzner — AK; Mr. J. Keji — JK; Miss M. Rusk — MR; Mr. C. Ross — CR; Dr. F. Scheider — FS; Mr. & Mrs. Sheffield — MRS; Dr. W. Spofford — WS.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: two adults and one immature, Duck Pond, nr Saranac Lake Jun 29 (HD); four individuals seen in the Sabattis area, Jun 2 (MR, WS); two, Ray Brook, Aug 12 (JK). Canada Goose: birds liberated in Tupper Lake area had a good season and gosling were seen (AA). Green-winged Teal: female and brood seen nr Paul Smith (CR), believed to be the first breeding record for the area, although the species bred at Oseetah Lake in 1961. Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser both had a good season in the Paul Smith area (CR) and a pair of Ring-necks were seen at Tupper Lake. All the records of Ring-necks are within the area indicated by Foley (Kingbird 13:79-84) as the breeding range of this species.

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: two adults at nest, Ampersand area, Jun 4 (JD, B. Martin), young seen in nest later. One adult, two well feathered young on nest, Jun 29, Debar Game Management Area (HD). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one, Sabbittis, Jun 2 (MR). Bald Eagle: one, Tupper Lake, Jun 2 (JD), immature, Tupper Lake Aug 10 (B. Frenette); one, Ampersand Pond, no date (fide JD). Golden Eagle: single bird seen Jun 2 & 26, in northern Adirondacks (WS). Osprey: one active nest reported (fide JD); one, Ray Brook, Jun 28 (JK); one, Madawaska, Jun 29 (FS); one, Tupper Lake, Jun 4 & Jul 20 (JD).

Spruce Grouse: one, Madawaska, Jun 29 (D. Peakall); two young observed nr Paul Smith, Aug 8 (CR). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: observed in mid-June at Heart Lake (MRS) and also at Wilmington, Jun 29 (AK). Reilly and Parkes checklist (1957) states 'recorded once in Adirondacks' so that further observations, particularly of definite breeding, would be of great interest. Black Tern: recorded on several dates during the period at Tupper Lake (AA, JD). These records of interest in view of the present increase of the north-eastern portion of the breeding range of this species. Saw-whet Owl: group of five young seen on the Elk Lake-Ausable Lake divide, Aug 3 (G. Carleton, F. Schetty).

Goatsucker — Shrikes: Kingfisher: scarcer than usual, Saranac Lake (HD). An idea of the relative abundance of the various species of woodpeckers at Ray Brook can be obtained from the observations of Keji. He noted the Flicker on 34 days during the period, Pileated on 3, Sapsucker on

47, Hairy on 10 and Downy on 29. Tree Swallow: noted in good numbers in the Tupper Lake area (JD). Rough-winged Swallow: recorded at Heart Lake in mid-Jun (MRS).

The Winter Wren was noted as very scarce compared to 1962 by MRS during a trip in mid-Jun. However, many were noted at Tupper L (AA). Veery: reported in good numbers by several observers.

Vireo — Sparrows: Nest of the Philadelphia Vireo was found in the Lake Placid area (MRS). Full details are given in the field note section. Eighteen species of warblers were reported. Counts of singing males at Madawaska along one and one half miles of back road by FS on Jun 29 were as follows: Black and White 2; Nashville 15; Magnolia 7; Black-throated Blue 1; Myrtle 10; Black-throated Green 1; Blackburnian 9; Ovenbird 7; Yellowthroat 12 and Canada 3. At Ray Brook, Keji noted seventeen species, commonest were Redstart and Yellowthroat both noted on 23 days, Myrtle and Chestnut-sided on 19 days and Nashville on 10. However, neither Chestnut-sided or Redstart were as common as last year although both these species were noted as normal at Saranac Lake (HD). Keji noted Tennessee Warbler on Jul 17 and Aug 10; Parula on Jul 31 and Bay-breasted on Aug 10. At Tupper Lake, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue were noted almost everywhere (AA). Wilson's Warbler was noted at end of period, Tupper Lake (AA).

Evening Grosbeak: the impression is that this is now widely distributed as a breeding species. MRS noted it at five points during a trip in mid-June. At Tupper Lake both adults and immatures were noted at intervals (AA, JD, JK). It was seen and heard at Saranac Lake (HD). Red Crossbill: noted four times during the period at Ray Brook (JK) and at Sunmount in Jul (AA). Towhee: five singing males in the Wilmington area, Jun 28 & 29 (AK) is a surprising number for the central area. Not noted at Tupper Lake where breeding was noted last year (AA). Clay-colored Sparrow: singing males found at Lake Placid golf course, Jun 24 & 25 (HD, AK) and Wilmington, Jun 28 & 29 (AK). For previous records of this western species see Kingbird 4:117 & 12:139. Junco, Chipping Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow were reported in 'very good numbers' at Ray Brook (JK).

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

Although this summer was very near average in temperature, rainfall for the second successive year was extremely low. Precipitation at Albany totalled 2.94 in. during June, 0.31 in. below normal, and 1.20 in. for July, 2.29 in. below normal. At the end of August, precipitation for the year was 6.1 in. below normal.

The lack of rainfall again afforded unusual opportunities in the area for observation of plovers and sandpipers. Both numbers and species of this group were higher than last summer, and seemed to arrive even earlier. The most unusual species reported from the group was the Ruff. Additional species included Western Sandpiper and Dowitcher among many others.

Breeding marsh birds did not seem common. Pied-billed Grebes and Soras were not observed at all, and Common Gallinules seemed decidedly uncommon. Hawks appeared to be breeding in low numbers. Unusual or rare species reported during the period included Ring-necked Duck, Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Ruff, Black Tern, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (nesting), Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviations used: L — Lake; Nisk — Niskayuna; nr — near; pr — pair; Res — Reservoir; Tomh — Tomhannock; VF — Vischer Ferry Game Management Area.

Observers: ADBC — Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC — Schenectady Bird Club; GB — Guy Bartlett; JC — Juanita Cook; JHB — James Bush; HE — Hazel Eddy; PE, GE — Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; EH — Esly Hallenbeck; MK — Marcia Kent; ER — Eleanor Radke; BRS — Benton Seguin; BW — Beverly Waite; PPW — Peter Wickham.

Loons — Ducks: Common Egret: two appeared at VF Jul 15 (BRS) and were seen by many observers through the end of the period. Black-cr. Night Heron: none known to breed, but both adults and immature individuals observed at VF after Jul 21 (HE, EH), max 4. Least Bittern: none observed. Canada Goose: at least 16 individuals released at VF remained throughout the summer. Green-winged Teal: two migrants early at VF Aug 4 (PPW, EH, BRS). **Ring-necked Duck:** a group of eight Aug 1 at VF (EH) was unusually early.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: numbers as high as 30 were reported from Columbia Co. (ADBC) with scattered reports from Greene, Albany and Schoharie Counties. No accipiters reported. Red-tailed Hawk: about 10 reports of probable breeding birds. Red-shouldered Hawk: three reports of probable nesting birds in different areas. Broad-winged Hawk: appeared in at least six different localities during the breeding season. Marsh Hawk: none reported. Osprey: no definite breeding records known. Appeared at VF Aug 7 (EH) and subsequently. Bob-white: small groups were seen and heard at Stottville, Meadowdale, and Poestenkill during Jul and Aug. The majority, if not all, of these birds were recently stocked. Wild Turkey: three were seen nr White Birch Lake Jun 10 (MK). Virginia Rail: several family groups observed at VF and Meadowdale in Jun and Jul. Sora: none observed. Common Gallinule: reported from Nisk and VF but numbers considerably lower than last year. Semipalmated Plover: appeared at VF Aug 7 (EH) and at least two were there at the end of the period. Killdeer: unusually large numbers of loitering birds observed late in summer, both in some grassy areas and in the marches. Woodcock: summering individuals reported from many sections. Common Snipe: individuals nr Catskill Jun 27 (JHB) and at VF after Jul 17 (EH) may have been nesting birds. Upland Sandpiper: reported nesting nr Slingerlands, Niskayuna, and Glenville. Solitary Sandpiper: fall migrants were at VF after Jul 20 (EH) and in other sections of the area as well in Aug. Greater Yellow-legs: 13 were at VF Jul 17 (EH, BRS) and numbers (usually less) were there throughout the rest of the period. Lesser Yellow-legs: 3-4 were at VF from Jul 17 to the end of the period. Pectoral Sandpiper: first Jul 20 at VF (EH), max 4 Aug 10. Least Sandpiper: first Jul 16, VF (BRS), max 15 Jul 18 (BRS). Dowitcher: one was at VF Jul 21-22 (HE, BRS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: first Jul 17, VF (EH), max 7, Round L, Jul 25 and 31 (BRS). Western Sandpiper: two birds with black legs, slightly drooping bill, and rusty shoulders were presumed this species Aug 10 at VF (EH, PPW). Others later reported Aug 14 at VF (EH). Ruff: one, in apparent post-breeding plumage, was observed at VF Jul 31 (BRS). This individual, which was of the same general color and pattern as a Pectoral Sandpiper, but was considerably larger, showed the distinctive white spots in the tail in flight. Gulls: Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were seen, especially later in the period, but no other species were observed. Black Tern: three were at VF Jul 16 (BRS), but there is no evidence of nesting in the region. Owls: reports of Barred, Great Horned and Screech Owls, all of which are regular, were the only ones received.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: numbers reported during the nesting season, last (a migrant?) Aug 16, VF (HE). Nighthawk: seemed considerably less common this summer in the region. Red-headed Woodpecker: two adults raised three young nr Scott's Church this summer (M. Crary et al.). Flycatchers seemed numerous this year. Olive-sided Flycatcher: three nr Berlin Jun 2; these were probably late migrants, as they were not observed there on Jun 10 (PPW). Swallows: still present at end of period, although flocks of 40-50 Tree Swallows and of hundreds of Barn Swallows were observed nr Catskill on Aug 10 and 4, respectively (JHB). Over 200 swallows, mostly Bank and Tree Swallows, were at VF Aug 5 (PPW). Cliff Swallow: a few breeding colonies were noted, especially in the northern part of the area. Over 40 were at Tomh Res Aug 11, probably migrating (PPW). Purple Martin: fewer reports than last year. Tufted Titmouse: reported in Jun from Schenectady and Columbia Counties, where breeding probably occurred. Reports of birds in Aug were received from Castleton (JC) and Catskill (B. Bush). Red-br Nuthatch: reported from

Old Chatham and Tomh Res as usual, as well as from farther north. Brown Creeper: at Old Chatham all summer (ADBC); observed at Tomh Res (where it may breed) Aug 11 (PPW). Carolina Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh-wren: reported from most of the larger marshes in the region and from Pottersville (MK). Short-billed Marsh-wren: no reports. Brown Thrasher: seemed rather uncommon in most localities. Mockingbird: one was in Westerlo Jun 2 (MK) and a pr nested in Catskill (JHB). Bluebird: most observers agreed there was a slight increase in the breeding population over last year. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**: one pr was reported nesting at Catskill (JHB) for the first nesting record for this region in many years. Golden-cr Kinglet: one, Jun 23, Lisha Kill nr Schenectady (SBC) suggests the interesting possibility that the bird may be breeding farther south than previously suspected. Cedar Waxwing: became an abundant bird in the region late in the summer.

Vireos — Warblers: Worm-eating Warbler: at least three singing individuals were at Thacher Park Jun 1 (PPW) and another was a Crane's Hollow Jun 3 (BRS). Blue-winged Warbler: reported from nr Altamont (BW), Ghent (PE, GE) and New Concord (ER). An unusual sight at Old Chatham on Jul 21 was of 1 Golden-winged Warbler, 1 Blue-winged Warbler, 4 **Brewster's Warblers** and 1 **Lawrence's Warbler** perched together on a fence rail (H. Barton). Nashville Warbler: observed at higher elevations in the region in Jun- nr Westerlo (MK) and Berlin (PPW) as well as farther north. Myrtle Warbler: an early migrant appeared at VF Aug 10 (PPW, EH). Cerulean Warbler: bred at Gallupville as usual (G. Zimmer). Blackburnian Warbler: reported from Old Chatham and Berlin as well as more northerly points. Black-poll Warbler: late migrants were passing through Jun 1 (BRS, PPW). Prairie Warbler: reported nesting at Karner (SBC), Ghent (PE, GE) and New Concord (ER). Louisiana Water-thrush: reported from Red Rock (ADBC), Altamont (SBC) and Lisha Kill (SBC). Mourning Warbler: a female was observed feeding young nr Indian Ladder while a male sung from a thicket nearby on Jul 17 (BRS); this is the most southerly breeding record for this region in many years. Birds were also observed nr Corinth (GB). Yellow-br Chat: one was at Catskill Jun 23 (JHB).

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Bobolink: southward-bound migrants observed from Aug 2 (EH) through end of period. **Orchard Oriole**: one male was at Catskill Jun 1-23 (JHB). No other reports were received for the period. Evening Grosbeak: nested in numbers at Jenny L, northern Saratoga Co, (GB), but not in southern part of region as occurred last year. Both Grass-hopper and Henslow's Sparrows seemed scarce to most observers. White-thr Sparrow: a number of individuals were singing in low-altitude areas south of their usual haunts into the summer: one was at Burnt Hills to Jul 5 (BRS), another at Catskill to Jun 10 (JHB), and another at Lisha Kill June 23 (SBC). A probable fall migrant or vagrant was at New Concord Aug 5 (ER).

RF #4, Box 465A, Troy

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The weather bureau in New York City reported July as the eighth straight month of below average rainfall. August till the end of the period did not indicate any change in the pattern. Temperatures throughout the period were not extreme; to the contrary, they were average to below for the entire period.

Only one catastrophe came to your reporters attention, and that was of about 100 dead birds found July 9 along a portion of Rt. 9 in West, that had recently been sprayed. No other details were forthcoming.

Abbreviations used: First four letters of each county—ex. Rock—Rockland; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

Contributors: BA — Bob Augustine; EB — Eugene Brown; RC — Robert Connor; ME — Martha Earl; FG — F. Germond; SOG — Stanley Grierson; MH — Marshall Howe; MH — Dr. Marjorie Hopper; TH — T. Haight; MI — Mort Isler; M & JK — Mary & Jim Key; AP — Anne Piper;

EP — E. Pink; VP — Vivian Parkhurst; WS — Wm. Strauss; OW — Otis Waterman; CY — Chan Young.

Loons—Ducks: Common Loon: An interesting report of one bird in winter plumage at Kays Pond, Pleasant Valley, Dutch from June 21—27 (WBC). The bird was captured and found to be far below normal weight range. It was released and disappeared. Pied-billed Grebe: Several reports throughout region, no young reported this year. Herons: Reported as few in Putn, but near normal elsewhere. Great Blue Heron: Three to five young reported at Tamarack Swamp nest site, Dutch (M & JK). Common Egret: Usual July influx of a few birds from the south. Black-crowned Night Heron: Two birds at Hawthorne, West from Aug 2 to the end of the period (BA). American Bittern: A nesting record from a swamp near Amenia, Dutch on July 6 (WS). Canada Goose: Well established nesting sites were occupied again this year in Dutch and Oran, but these are all too few. Blue-winged Teal: This rare summer resident occasionally nests in region. A pair with five young was seen near Pine Plains, Dutch on June 30 (VP). Wood Duck: Normal population.

Hawks—Owls: Turkey Vulture: Population continues to be high. **Goshawk:** First nesting record for Ulst. Two young birds taken alive at Fleischmanns (in the Catskills) and turned over alive to Dr. Heinz Meng who later found the nest in a Red Maple. It contained traces of squirrel fur and crow feathers. Sharp-shinned Hawk: None reported. Cooper's Hawk: Only one reported from Barrytown, Dutch on June 2 (OW). Red-tailed Hawk: Population down in Dutch, but not noticeably changed elsewhere. Red-shouldered Hawk: None reported. Broad-winged Hawk: Population normal. Usual breeding records. Marsh Hawk: None reported. Usually rare but regular locally. Osprey: One reported from Lake DeForest area of Rock on July 20 (MI). Sparrow Hawk: Numbers normal to slightly below. Bobwhite: Appears to be increasing slightly in Dutch since initial release by the Conservation Dept. in 1959. No such increase reported elsewhere. Virginia Rail: Breeding records from Ulst, Dutch and West are in good numbers for this furtive species. Sora: Largely unreported; one breeding record from Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah, West (SOG). **Purple Gallinule:** This species reported last spring at the home of Carl Breuninger in Pound Ridge, West remained till June 7. Common Gallinule: One pair reported nesting at Pine Plains, Dutch (VP). No other reports. Killdeer: Nesting reports indicate a successful season. Woodcock: Same as the previous species. Common Snipe: Reported from the Pine Plains area thru early Aug. Three or four birds observed there on Aug 12 (VP). Shorebirds: Extensive mud-flats exposed at the north end of Croton Res., West brought in several species, some in great numbers, during the month of July (BA, MH). Among those observed there on July 21 were: Solitary Sandpiper—four; Spotted Sandpiper — 20-25; Killdeer — 40; Pectoral Sandpiper — 2; and about 300 Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, the greater majority of which were Least. For most of the region, the shorebird migration was in full swing by mid-July, and continued well to the end of the period. Dowitcher: Rock had its fourth record of this species at Lake DeForest on July 20 (MI). Gulls: Most local species maintained good numbers along the Hudson. Laughing Gulls were scarce during the early part of the season, but picked up when a number of immatures moved in toward the latter part. Terns: None reported when usually a few Common can be expected along the Hudson. Cuckoos: A very good season for the Yellow-billed, and a better than average for the Black-billed. Owls: No noticeable change in numbers for any species; all too few for most. Barn Owl: One reported nesting near Monroe (ME).

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: Population about the same as last year, perhaps a little better. Nighthawk: Numbers remain low. Early migrants were reported over Hawthorne, West on July 20, when four birds were observed (BA). Hummingbird: Numbers up over last year. Some birders reported as many as three or four birds observed in a morning. Belted Kingfisher: Reported as "very, very scarce" in Rock, and obviously low in numbers elsewhere in the region. Woodpeckers: No significant changes

reported in any species. Phoebe: Reported continually scarce in Rock. Traill's Flycatcher: Two pair nesting at Lake DeForest, Rock (MI); and again at Hawthorne, West for the third straight year (BA). Least Flycatcher: Reported last year as down in numbers in the West region; they are even lower this year. Only one pair known to have bred in the Hawthorne area (BA). Wood Pewee: Summer residents appear below normal in Dutch. Olive-sided Flycatcher: One observed in Armonk on Aug 6 (MH) might indicate summer residence as readily as early migration. Horned Lark: Martha Earl discovered two pairs nesting in the Goshen — Farmingdale area of Oran. Swallows: Most species reported in good numbers, with breeding highly successful. Migrants were obviously on the way south on July 31, with a number of Trees being reported from Dutch on that date (EP), and "hundreds" of Trees at Katonah, West the week of Aug 4 (SOG). Martha Earl thought the number of Barns and Cliffs was small in Oran, but this was not reported elsewhere. Bob Deed reports that Cliffs have appeared so regularly in Rock that they should now be classed as regular migrants. Dutch reports an interesting record of nesting Cliffs being driven out by English Sparrow at Upton Lake, and taking up residence at a farm a mile or two away where two or three pairs completed nesting (FG). Purple Martin: Has nested along the Hudson in Dutch for years. This year produced a new record inland at Briarcliff Farms near Pine Plains where five to seven pairs nested (TH et al). Migrants were observed in West on Aug 7 and in Rock on Aug 15. Corvids: Nothing unusual reported. Red-breasted Nuthatch: At least one and perhaps two were found during the summer at Westmoreland Sanct. near Armonk (MH). Brown Creeper: Breeding again in the areas reported last summer. House Wren: Has made a comeback from the low numbers of a few years ago. Carolina Wren: Only one comment received; that of a bird nesting in a Blue bird house at Katonah (AP). Long-billed Marsh Wren: Numbers are good throughout region. Short-billed Marsh Wren: At least three of this rare species were found singing at dusk along Lake Tiorati Road in Bear Mt. Park on May 18 (MI, RC). They are worth reporting even though they were found before the period began. Mockingbird: Continues to increase in numbers and range. Northern counties of Ulst and Dutch report nesting of one and two pairs, whereas Rock in the south reports a number of birds nesting in the Lake DeForest, Orangeburgh and Tappan areas. Hermit Thrush: Continues to breed sparingly in Dutch as far south as Mt. Beacon. One bird was heard singing at Pine Swamp in the Harriman Section of Bear Mt. Park on June 6 (MH, EB). Bluebird: Continues to be low. WBC has extended their nest box program resulting in slightly higher breeding for Dutch. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Breeding again in the Stony Point region of Rock (MI); and a pair found at Briarcliff, West on July 21 probably bred (BA). Cedar Waxwing: Birds were observed breeding in the Blooming Grove area of Oran from June 3 to the end of the period (ME). Loggerhead Shrike: Observed nesting in Oran (ME).

Vireos—Warblers: White-eyed Vireo: None reported from most of the region, but at least five pairs bred in the New City area of Rock. Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireo: Down in numbers throughout the region. Warbling Vireo: Unreported. Warblers: Numbers generally normal in Dutch, to below normal in Putn except for a few species. **Prothonotary Warbler:** One bird at Nappanoch, Ulst on June 27 (CY). Brewster's Warbler: This hybrid continually observed throughout the period in Dutch; breeding not determined. Tennessee Warbler: An early migrant observed at Westmoreland Sanct., West on Aug 15 (MH). Cerulean Warbler: Only summer reports are of three pair at Cruger's Is, Dutch and another two or three pairs on Mt. Rutsen Rd. about three mi south of Barrytown. All were nesting birds (WBC). Bay-breasted Warbler: An early bird reported from Westmoreland Sanct on Aug 7 & 8 (MH). Northern Waterthrush: Dutch had reports thru the end of June, but no verified nesting. Canada Warbler: First migrant at Westmoreland Sanct on Aug 10 (MH). Redstart: Bob Deed reports them down in numbers in Rock, but Mrs. Mabel Little found them to be one of the few species of warbler in good numbers in Putn.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Blackbirds generally on the increase for most

species: Bobolink: Good numbers locally in their usual breeding areas. Eastern Meadowlark: About the only member of the family that did not show an appreciable increase. Red-wing: Flocking observed in the West area as early as July 10. Orchard Oriole: Fred Hough reports at least three breeding pair within a few miles of each other in Ulst. The only other report is of an immature bird at Pound Ridge, West on June 9 (BA). Grackle: Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Lent of Katonah reported observing birds of this species on several occasions going through "anting" movements with dog repellent pellets they had spread about their property. Indigo Bunting: Far and above last years population for the whole region. Purple Finch: Scattered nesting reports from Dutch, Oran and Putn. **House Finch:** Continued reports throughout summer from South Nyack might indicate breeding. Numbers continue to increase in the Hawthorne area of West (BA). Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrow: Nesting reports from Oran (ME) and West. Henslow's Sparrow: A singing male of this rare species was found just south of Letchworth Village, Rock on June 1 & 2 (MI). Vesper Sparrow: Breeding records made by Martha Earl in Oran. Slate-colored Junco: A good summer record of an immature bird near Armonk, West on Aug 6 (MH). Could indicate breeding in the area. Jim and Mary Key found a nest of this species with two young at Dover Plains, Dutch at an elevation of 1,500 ft. This is the most southerly nesting record for this county, and at the lowest elevation. White-throated Sparrow: Found singing at Pine Swamp, Bear Mt. State Park on June 6 (MH).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls.

REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

The spring migration was a protracted one with migrant orioles, thrushes, and flycatchers still moving along the coast on the extremely late date of June 16 (JM, *Linnaean News-Letter*, 17(3) May 1963).

During the first three quarters of June the temperature in New York City averaged below normal. This was more than compensated for, however, when the mercury soared well over the 90 degree mark for five consecutive days during the period from June 24th through the 28th, tying the record for the maximum number of consecutive days of this occurrence for June. The monthly average temperature was 70.9 degrees (0.5 degrees below normal). The precipitation for the month averaged 2.72 inches (.59 inches below normal). This in no way compensated for the near drought conditions which prevailed during the spring. As a result, several species of waterfowl seem to have been affected.

Roy Latham, of Orient, reports that most of the summer residents there (Wood Thrushes, Ovenbirds, and Black-billed Cuckoos, as well as many other species) are "still reduced in numbers," while Redstarts, Blue-winged, and Black and White Warblers no longer nest in the area. Is this due to insecticides? Dennis Puleston also reported "a very uneventful breeding season" for L. I.

What is apparently the first record for eastern North America, a Red-billed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon aethereus*) was pick up dead in early June. This bird was presumably carried north by a tropical disturbance, which, according to the United States Weather Bureau, originated about May 31st in an area of squalls extending from 200 miles SSW of Jamaica, across Cuba, and through the eastern and central Bahamas. First called a tropical disturbance on June 1st when over the extreme NW Bahamas, this storm traveled up the Atlantic coast and finally "petered out" over northern Maryland on June 3rd.

The shorebird migration began, as usual, during the last week of June and by mid-July was well underway with 20 species present on the Moriches flats July 13 (PP, GT). A total of 27 species of shorebirds was reported from L. I. during July.

The most notable feature of July was the number of excessively warm and uncomfortable days (on 11 days the temperature was 90 degrees or above and a spell of six consecutive 90 degree days from the 24th through the 29th included three days over 95). Precipitation for the month was only 2.19 inches (1.61 inches below normal) marking the 8th consecutive month with below normal precipitation.

The first land bird migrants (Black and White, Worm-eating, Blue-winged and Yellow Warblers, Northern Water-thrush, Baltimore Oriole, etc.) began moving through the New York City parks during the last week in July. However, this early movement in no way approaches the magnitude that such flights assumed some 30 years ago (WN). This may, in part, be due to a decrease in the number of breeding birds as nearby areas become built up. Notable among these is the Golden-winged Warbler which is fast disappearing and being supplanted by the Blue-winged Warbler. Most observers reported land bird migrants, as of the end of the summer period, scarcer than last year.

Aside from the Tropic-bird, rarities reported during the period included Leach's Petrel, Louisiana Heron (breeding), Curlew Sandpiper, Ruffs, Black-headed Gull, Royal Terns, Chick-will's-widow, "Lawrence's" Warbler (breeding), Cerulean Warblers (apparently breeding), Western Tanager, and Lark Sparrows.

Abbreviations used JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; EP — East Pond; WP — West Pond; Max — Maximum one day count during the period.

Regular Contributors: JB — Jacqueline Backstrom; PB — Paul A. Buckley; RC — Richard Cohen; FE — Frank Enders; HF — H. Lee Ferguson; RF — Robert G. Fisher; FH — Fred Heath; HH — Helen Hays; WH — William Hackett; HJ — Herbert Johnson; KK — Klaus D. Kallman; EL — Emanuel Levine; RL — Roy Latham; JM — John H. Mayer; KM — Kevin J. Malone; LM — Lee Morgan; PM — Pauline Messing; WN — William J. Norse; PO — Paul Opler; DP — Dennis Puleston; PP — Peter W. Post; RP — Richard L. Plunkett; DR — Daniel J. Rafferty; GR — Gilbert S. Raynor; GT — Guy A. Tudor; CW — Cornelius J. Ward; CY — Charles F. Young; JZ — Jeffrey Zupan.

Loons—Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: one pair bred at JBWR-WP; compare with the 15 or more pair last year. Is this due to low water level? A very poor season for pelagics, at least from the beaches. Only shearwater report was of a Sooty, Jun 1, Jones Inlet (KM). This represents part of the spring migration that normally takes place a few miles offshore. Leach's Petrel: one, Jun 30, Shinnecock Bay (GR) — "well observed from boat at close range both flying and on the water" — one of the few observations of a live bird; most records of this species are of birds picked up dead on the beaches. Wilson's Petrel: 250, on an excursion between Battery Park and Atlantic Highlands, Aug 13 (PP). Most of the birds were in lower N. Y. Bay (in the vicinity of Hoffman and Swinburne Islands). This species no longer occurs in Upper N. Y. Bay as it did annually, ten or more years ago. Red-billed Tropic-bird: one, Jun 10, Bergen Beach, Brooklyn (W. J. Lynch). The specimen (an immature) has been deposited in the AMNH collection — for details see above. Double-crested Cormorant: 30, Jul 13, Bellport Bay (GR) — first returning migrants.

Heron colonies with numbers of pairs breeding: Canarsie Pol (HJ, DP, GR, PP): Common Egret, eight; Snowy Egret, 75; Louisiana Heron, one — second breeding record for state; Little Blue Heron, two; Green Heron, two; Black-crowned Night Heron, 40; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, one; Glossy Ibis, seven. Lawrence Marsh (PP, RP, LM): Common Egret, three; Snowy Egret, 20; Little Blue Heron, five (including one pair pied plumage); Green Heron, ten; Black-crowned Night Heron, 15; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, three. Tobay Beach (PP): Common Egret, 20; Snowy Egret, 35; Black-crowned Night Heron, six; Green Heron, two. Compare with the 200-600 or more pairs present in past years. Three adult Louisiana Herons, several adult Little Blue Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons were present at

Tobay Pond during the summer; where they are nesting, if at all, is a mystery. East Moriches (GR); first known heronry in that part of L. I. in 6-8 years; Common Egret, one or two pairs present but no definite proof of breeding; Snowy Egret, 10 — first known nesting east of Jones Beach; Black-crowned Night Heron, 30. Fisher's Island (HF): Common Egret, eight; Little Blue Heron, three adults, Jul 1 (not nesting) — rare here; Green Heron, ca 12; Black-crowned Night Heron, 60-100; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, one — first nest found this year, although this species has been present during breeding season since 1952. A brief analysis of breeding herons over the past few years shows that they are subject to great fluctuations. The only steady trends seem to be the increase in Little Blue Herons and Glossy Ibis. Green Herons seem to be declining steadily on western L. I. Latham expresses the same opinion for the Orient Peninsula. The reasons for this remain obscure. Many of these colonies are in areas which experience no apparent disturbance either by humans or other predators. Least Bittern: absent this summer from JBWR — several pairs bred in past years; Van Cortlandt Park — has not bred here for at least the last three years.

Brant: three, JBWR — a few summer here annually. Tobay Pond, once the Mecca of the region's bird watchers, is now one of the most neglected areas. Management by the New York State Conservation Department and the Town of Oyster Bay, under the 1959 "Wetlands Bill," is reverting the pond back to its former fresh to brackish condition, and extensive beds of Cattails (*Typha* sp.) now line the southern edge of the pond. This has, at least in part, been responsible for the greater utilization by waterfowl. All the "prairie" ducks (except the divers) that have bred at JBWR during the past few years were present at Tobay all summer, and may breed in the future if they are not already. Two brief surveys of the pond were conducted on Jun 22 (PP) and Jul 11 (PB), respectively. Counts only give an approximation of the true numbers present. Many birds nest far from the pond, in adjacent sand dunes, coming to the pond only to feed and when young are out. The following are maximum numbers seen on the above dates: Mallard, 50; Black Duck, ten; Gadwall, 60 (170 young in various stages of development on Jul 11); Pintail, one pair; Green-winged Teal, four pairs; Blue-winged Teal, two pairs; American Widgeon, one male; Shoveler, one male plus two females feigning injury. This species has bred here at least twice before — 1958 and 1962. Following are waterfowl records for JBWR (WP unless EP is specified) (FE, HH, WN, et al): Mallard, 28, Aug 11; Black Duck, 600, Jun 11, WP and 225, Jun 11, EP (FE); Gadwall, at least three broods; Pintail: two, Aug 11 (migrants, only breeding record is that of one pair which bred last year); Green-winged Teal: at least two broods, Jul 4, EP (WN) — one pair bred in 1961-2; Blue-winged Teal, several broods, 80, Aug 11; American Widgeon, none this year — three pair bred in 1961; Shoveler, none this year — one pair bred in 1956 and 1960, two pairs bred in 1957. Wood Duck, three (two females and male in eclipse), Jun 30 (JB, FE), were transients. This recalls the occurrence of three males (also in eclipse) on EP, Jul 9, 1961. Redhead, three broods (two pairs bred in 1961-2, presumably from stocked birds); Common Golden-eye, one female summered; Ruddy Duck, EP and WP, 94 males, 150 female-juvenile. "Although there seems to be fewer adult males, in 1963, production of young is up! A few broods will probably appear in the next few weeks" (HH). She estimates 40 broods this year. Last year's estimates included about 30 broods, 108 males, 45 female-juvenile. Hooded Merganser, one female; a non-breeder, summered (JB, RC) — there are comparatively few summer records for this species. The Ruddy Duck figures are probably representative of the entire breeding population; the other figures, unfortunately, are not. They are cited here as minimum estimates to stimulate further research.

Hawks—Owls: Marsh Hawk: continues to decline as a breeder — at least one pair still nests at Jones Beach. Bobwhite: thriving at JBWR after having been introduced. Clapper Rail: nest with eight eggs, Jun 30, Shinnecock (GR); one adult and one young, Jul 27, Moriches Inlet (GR) —

uncommon breeder on eastern L. I. Virginia Rail: one, Jun 23 and 26, Manorville (GR) — probably breeding. For the first time in the memory of local observers no rails were breeding in the Van Cortlandt Park swamp. Four pairs of Virginia Rails and one pair of Soras bred here last year (FH, JZ). American Coot: 200 (ca. 40 adults), Aug 11, JBWS (FE, HH, WN); one pair, Jul 11, Tobay Pond (PB) — unusual location for that date. American Oyster-catcher: one pair, Shinnecock (GR) — three eggs laid, one young hatched but died within a few days; one pair, Moriches (GR) — four eggs laid, only one hatched to survive to flight stage; one pair, S end of Gardiner's Is (KK) — one fully grown young with adults, Jul 13. In addition, several reports of non-breeders from the "North Fork" of L. I. Golden Plover: one, Aug 14, JBWR (EL). American Woodcock: one pair bred for second consecutive year, JBWR (HJ). Whimbrel: many reports of small flocks from the south shore of L. I. from mid-July on. Curlew Sandpiper: one, Jul 20-21, BWR (HJ, CY) — breeding plumage. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 3000, Jul 13, Moriches (PP, GT). Excellent season for godwits; both species present at Moriches and JBWR since first week in July. Marbled Godwit: max five, Jul 16, Moriches (DP); max six, mid-Jul, JBWR (HJ). Hudsonian Godwit: max 13, Aug 10, Moriches (LM, PO); one, Jul 6 on JBWR (many observers). Ruff: one, Jul 13, Moriches (PP, GT) — photographed in color; one, Aug 11, Tobay Pond (CW) — both males in "late breeding plumage"; reported annually since 1956, but usually in spring. Wilson's Phalarope: one, Aug 10, Moriches (many observers).

Gull, Tern, and Skimmer colonies: Kallman reports the following numbers of pairs — Captree: Great Black-backed Gull, four; Herring Gull, 1005; Common Tern, 600; Black Skimmer, 17. Jones Beach: Common Tern, 350; Black Skimmer, 24. Short Beach: Common Tern, 650; Least Tern, 60; Black Skimmer, 120. The Captree colonies have been helped by new sand fill due to the building of the new Fire Island bridge. The Jones Beach colonies are suffering as old areas become overgrown with Beachgrass. The Jones Beach State Park Commission is also practicing a form of biological control in making lawns out of nesting areas, so that motorists will not stop to look at the birds, which nest along the road. On the other hand, in other areas, snow fences are put up to prevent young birds from wandering onto the road. The major colony, at Short Beach this year, in a new area of sand fill, was subject to continual harassment by persons using the nearby parking lot. "During the winter of 1962-3, the two islands at Moriches Inlet were joined to the barrier beach by dredging operations, giving predators and humans direct access to the islands. This resulted in complete elimination of the great tern and skimmer colony on the west island. Many birds returned and a few tried to nest but they were not successful. On the east side, a small number of Common and Least Terns and skimmers were raised but many were killed by predators" (GR). The colony on the west island last year supported 6000 pairs of Common Terns, 100 pairs of Roseate Terns, and 200 pairs of Black Skimmers. "Many of the birds displaced from Moriches apparently nested in other, mostly marginal areas. These account, however, for only a small percentage of those displaced at Moriches" (GR). It seems odd that predation plays a very minor role in the Jones Beach colonies, which are on a barrier beach and are also connected to the mainland. "The Cartwright Island and Nepeague Bay [Great Black-backed and Herring Gull] colonies showed a decrease but they remained stable at Shinnecock" (GR). Canarsie Pol: Herring Gull decreasing steadily as a breeder — evidence of extensive predation.

Black-headed Gull: one immature, from Jul 29 to present, JBWR (WH, DR, et al) — first summer record. There was a light movement of Royal Terns in late Jul and early Aug: one, Jul 26, Jones Beach (KM); one, Jul 28, Moriches (RF, RP); one, Aug 3, JBWR (PP) — apparently the first record. Black Tern: very scarce this fall — max at JBWR, four. Mourning Dove: greatly increased as a breeder throughout the Orient Peninsula (RL). Short-eared Owl: two, Jun 22, Canarsie Pol (PP, GR) — although at least one pair has been present every summer, no proof of breeding has ever been found here.

Goatsuckers—Shrikes: Chuck-will's-widow: one, Jun 26, Port Chester, Westchester Co (Paul C. Spofford — heard calling at night by an observer who is previously familiar with the species in the south; second record for the region. Common Nighthawk: a bird heard calling during early morning hours of Jun 29 on Columbia University Campus is interesting (PP); only known breeding pair in Manhattan is in the Inwood section where they have bred for the past three years (WN). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one, Jul 31, Central Park (PM) — may be only Jul record. Alder Flycatcher: five pairs bred in Van Cortlandt Park swamp (FH, JZ); two pairs at JBWR — new breeding location. Since 1957 this species breeds or has bred at the following L. I. locations: East Moriches, Tobay Beach and Idlewild. The only other L. I. nesting record is that listed by Cruickshank at Kissena Park (**Birds around New York City, 1942**). All these birds refer to the "fitz-bew" song type. Purple Martin: one pair arrived on the extreme date of Jun 21 at JBWR and attempted to nest, but finally gave up after a week of continuous harassment by a pair of Tree Swallows (HJ). Carolina Wren: returning to Greenport area — at least three pairs plus singles (RL). Long-billed Marsh Wren: nine pairs bred in Van Cortlandt Park swamp (FH, JZ). Mockingbird: continues to increase as breeder: "bob-tailed" young seen at Riis Park on as widely separated dates as Jun 11 (GT) and Aug 15 (PP). One pair raised two young in Central Park for the first nesting on Manhattan Swainson's Thrush: one, Aug 14, Inwood Park (WN) — early. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: the nest at Noyack, mentioned in the spring report, was empty on Jun 10, the young were presumed to have fledged successfully (DP). Loggerhead Shrike: one, Aug 5, Inwood Park (WN) — early.

Vireos—Warblers: Worm-eating Warbler: good numbers this fall. Seven, Aug 2, Inwood Park (WN) — high count. Blue-winged Warbler: also in good numbers; max: 12, Aug 2, Inwood Park (WN); 12, Aug 9, Bronx Park (Edward Maguire). "Lawrence's" Warbler: one male mated to Blue-wing bred in Van Cortlandt Park, and was seen feeding young in late Jun and early Jul (Gus Schmidt, et al). Magnolia Warbler: one, Aug 14, Inwood Park (WN) — early. Cerulean Warbler: one, Aug 15, Inwood Park (WN) — extremely rare in fall. This species, rare on L. I. at any time, is apparently breeding at Noyack; a singing male present during May was still present on Jun 10 when it was seen chasing other birds (DP). A singing male, as well as a female, were present last summer in the same area. Yellow-breasted Chat: 12 singing males, 31 May, Northport (Eugent T. Mudge) — have bred here for past 15 years. Wilson's Warbler: one, Aug 11, Central Park (PM) — early.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Orchard Oriole: more numerous than usual this spring and early summer (generally males in immature plumage); one nesting pair at East Marion (male in adult plumage); a second pair was also present (male in immature plumage) and may have bred (DP, GR). Baltimore Oriole: excellent numbers this fall; earliest Jul 20, JBWR (FE). Western Tanager: one, Aug 2, Inwood Park (WN) — in female plumage, located by its "unfamiliar call note, unlike any Scarlet" — the earliest record by about two months. House Finch: one pair, Inwood Park (WN) — new breeding locality. Lark Sparrow: one, Jun 15, Van Cortlandt Park (DR) — first for that park and one of the few Jun records. One was seen at Riis Park on the much more normal date of Aug 15 (PP).

Note: Please have fall reports in by Dec 7. "The reader is reminded . . . that this is a cooperative work; if he fails to find . . . [here] . . . anything that he knows about birds, he can blame himself for not having sent the information to . . ." — Mr. Post, 575 West 183 St., N. Y. C. 33, or Mr. Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, N. Y. C. 25.

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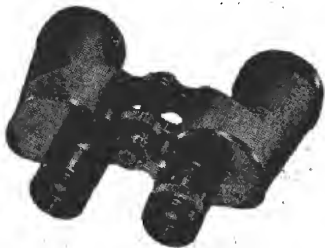
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Dr. Alfred O. Gross, one of the nation's outstanding ornithologists, began his career immediately upon graduation from the University of Illinois in 1908 and from Harvard from which he received his Ph.D. degree in 1912. He was Professor of Biology and Ornithology at Bowdoin College from 1912 to 1953 when he retired after receiving an Honorary DSc degree from the college in 1952. Dr. Gross has served as ornithologist for the Illinois State Statistical Ornithological Survey, Bermuda Biological Station, as Ornithologist in charge of the Heath Hen Investigation, New England Ruffed Grouse Investigation and the Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Investigation. He conducted Ruffed Grouse studies for the Roosevelt Wildlife Experiment Station in New York. He was Director of the Bowdoin Scientific Station, Kent Island, New Brunswick, Canada, Biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Herring Gull-Cormorant Control. He did ornithological research in the Panama Canal Zone. He was Ornithologist on the Bowdoin Arctic Expedition in 1934, U. S. Delegate to the International Ornithological Congress in Upsala, Sweden in 1950 and in Basel, Switzerland in 1954. He has made two trips around the world and has conducted ornithological observations on all five continents, as well as nearly every U.S. state including Hawaii and Alaska, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands.



He is a fellow and Patron of the American Ornithologist's Union, member of the Cooper Ornithologist Club, past president of the New England Bird Banding Association, member of the Wilson Ornithological Club, National Audubon Society and many other groups. He has had more than 200 of his ornithological and nature articles published, served as editor of the *Maine Field Naturalist*, as well as contributing editor for the *Florida Naturalist* and other state Audubon magazines.

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